

## **Written in Red: Words of Jesus**

The eye of the needle

*Luke 18:18-30*

### **Introduction**

*This is one of the hardest things Jesus ever said. Not hard to understand, but hard because it hits so close to home. He said plainly: "I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."*

### **We are all rich**

- By world standards
- By historical standards

### **Being rich isn't enough**

- To get us the good life
- To inherit eternal life

### **Neither is doing good and keeping the commandments**

- Selective goodness
- Still lacking something

### **The gravitational pull of possessions tugs at our hearts**

- The more we have the greater the pull

### **Who can be saved, and how?**

- If the rich aren't blessed by God, who is?

### **If we sacrifice will it be worth it?**

- Worth it in this life?
- Worth it in the life to come?

### **Personal Response**

Lord, it is easy for me to convince myself that I'm not rich, that lots of others have much more than I do. And I can argue that what I own doesn't pull me away from you.

Yet, I'm really bothered by your picture of the camel and a needle. I know you don't tell everyone to sell all their possessions and give to the poor, but you do confront us about what we have, how much we share with others, and how much we keep for ourselves.

I'm especially bothered about the gravitational pull of the stuff I own, More stuff, more pull.

Please help me hear your heart, trust you enough to surrender and live an eternal life, now and forever. Amen.

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**Next Week:** Why giving beats getting every time

*Acts 20:35*