

THE TRUE GOSPEL

100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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RICH MEN SHALL HARDLY ENTER THE KINGDOM

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Mat 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Mat 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Mat 19:19 Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mat 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me.

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**.

Mat 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD**.

Mat 19:25 When his disciples heard [it], they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

Mat 19:26 But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Mat 19:30 But many [that are] first shall be last; and the last [shall be] first.

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Mar 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God.

Mar 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal,

Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Mar 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mar 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Mar 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD!**

Mar 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD!**

Mar 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Mar 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Mar 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Mar 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Mar 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the Gospel's,

Mar 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mar 10:31 But many [that are] first shall be last; and the last first.

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Luk 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luk 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none [is] good, save one, [that is], God.

Luk 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Luk 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Luk 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Luk 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

Luk 18:24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD!**

Luk 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Luk 18:26 And they that heard [it] said, Who then can be saved?

Luk 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Luk 18:28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

Luk 18:29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

Luk 18:30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Note: There are a number of things to learn from these scriptures.

1.

JESUS DID NOT CALL HIMSELF 'GOOD', ONLY GOD IS GOOD

In Mat 19:17 Jesus did not call himself 'good'. Only God is 'good'. This is so because Jesus had the same human nature we have. He was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. (Hbr 4:15) God the Father does not have this nature. God cannot be tempted with evil. (Jam 1:13) He is altogether good.

2.

HAVING ETERNAL LIFE MEANS ENTERING THE KINGDOM

Comparing Mat 19, verses 16-17 and 23 shows that having eternal life means entering into the Kingdom of Heaven. So when we see other scriptures about eternal life, we can remember that this means entering the Kingdom. For example, 1Jo 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, [even] eternal life.

3.

BEING SAVED MEANS ENTERING THE KINGDOM

Comparing Mat 19 verses 24 and 25 shows that being saved means entering the Kingdom of Heaven. So when we see other scriptures about being saved, we can remember that this means entering the Kingdom. For example, Jhn 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

4.

TO ENTER THE KINGDOM, WE MUST KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

Many people believe that only faith is required to be saved. But Mat 19:17 shows that in order to enter God's Kingdom we must keep his commandments. If you are thinking, 'How many commandments must we keep?' or 'The ONLY commandments we must keep are the ones Jesus mentioned here.', your attitude toward God's commandments is not yet converted. Read Psalms 19 and 119. These psalms express King David's attitude toward God's commandments. To search them out is more desirable and valuable than searching for gold.

Jesus answered the rich man's question here by specifying only five of the ten commandments. One of the ten that he did not mention was, 'thou shalt not covet'. So are we now given permission to covet just because Jesus did not mention it here? Also Jesus specified only one of the two great commandments, to love your neighbor as yourself. The one he did not mention was loving God with all your heart. Are we now NOT required to love God?

The truth is that Jesus gave a short summary of God's commandments to answer the man's question. He could not specify every commandment of God that the Bible contains. I counted 50 commandments and principles that Jesus taught in just the Sermon on the Mount (Mat 5-7)

As we saw in note # 8, God is determining our position in his Kingdom based on how we treat even his least commandments.

* Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

An example of a commandment that could be considered least in the Old Testament is Deu 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out [the corn]. Yet, the Apostle Paul honored this seemingly insignificant commandment in 1 Cor 9:6-10 by applying the principle of it to how ministers should be treated.

Also as we saw in note # 9, our righteousness (which means commandment-keeping), must be at least greater than the Scribes and Pharisees in order to enter the Kingdom. This would seem to indicate that God requires a minimum standard of commandment keeping to enter his Kingdom.

* Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is a story of a father who gave his son a trip to Adventure Island for his birthday. Another father only gave his son a commandment to look both ways before crossing the street on his birthday. Which father gave the greater gift? The one who gave the trip probably was appreciated most. But the father who gave the commandment saved his son's life if the son obeyed his father. This is how the Lord wants us to see and appreciate his commandments. In Jhn 12:50 Jesus said, "And I know that his commandment is life everlasting:"

When we are first converted, we don't know everything that is in the Bible yet. But as we study his word, we grow in grace and knowledge of his ways. As 1Pe 2:2 says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" If we meditate on and keep his commandments as it says in Psalm 1, we will become like a fruitful tree.

Here are other scriptures encouraging us to keep God's commandments.

* Jhn 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

* Jhn 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

* 1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

* Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

* Rev 22:14 Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

5.

TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM WE MUST BECOME PERFECT

Mat 19:21 shows that in order to enter God's Kingdom we must do MORE than keep his commandments. We must become perfect. One requirement for being perfect is to sell what we have, give to the poor, take up the cross (Mar 10:21) and follow Jesus.

A. SELL WHAT YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR

It was a common practice for the early disciples to give to the poor as we see in John 13:29, Acts 3:2-6, Gal 2:9-10. Acts 4:32-37 tells us also that the earliest Christians also sold their extra lands and houses and distributed to poor fellow-Christians for their needs so that no one lacked anything..

When we sell what we have and give to the poor, we show God that our hearts are on him, not on material things and worldly gain. Mat 19:21 shows that when we do this we will have treasure in Heaven.

* Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

When we sell what we have and give to the poor, we are also following the example of our Lord who gave up his glory in Heaven and became poor so that we could become rich.

* 2Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

B. TAKE UP THE CROSS

Phl 2:8 tells us that though Jesus was in the form of God, he became a man (a servant), and then humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Jesus' cross was to be afflicted and put to death for our sins. In Mat 16:21 Jesus began to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer this cross. Peter said to him, "This shall never be to you!" Jesus said to Peter, "Get thee behind me Satan. .Thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Peter meant well, but did not realize that to not accept the God-appointed cross of death for Jesus was to deny God and serve Satan. After Jesus said this to Peter, he said this to his disciples:

* Mat 16:24 If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

To take up the cross means that we must deny ourselves and be willing to lose our lives for his sake.

* Phl 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

It also means that we must humble ourselves as Jesus did and become obedient to God unto whatever cross of death God appoints for us. Luk 9:23 adds that we must take up our cross DAILY and follow the Lord. Perhaps the cross we are called on to bear might involve daily suffering.

C. FOLLOWS JESUS

Peter said in Mat 19:27 that he and the disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus. Here are some scriptures that ask the question, 'What are you willing to give up and suffer in order to follow where Jesus would lead you?'

* Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mat 4:20 And they straightway left [their] nets, and followed him.

Note: Would you immediately leave your job to follow Jesus?

* Mat 8:19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Mat 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air [have] nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay [his] head.

Note: What if you had to be homeless to follow the Lord. Would you still follow him?

* Luk 9:59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Luk 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the Kingdom of God.

Note: What if you had to choose between following Jesus' command to preach the Kingdom or attend the funeral of your father?

* Luk 9:61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

Luk 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.

Note: What if the Lord told you that you could not even look back to say goodbye to your family?

* Luk 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

Luk 14:26 If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Note: Here Jesus told the crowds that they must be willing to forsake everything even their lives to be his disciples. In Luk 14:28 he told the multitudes to count the cost of following him. Many wanted to follow him when they saw the miracles he did, but when he was arrested, even all the disciples forsook him and fled. (Mar 14:50)

As said above, in order to enter God's Kingdom we must do MORE than keep his commandments. We must go on to become perfect by selling what we have to give to the poor, take up the cross and follow Jesus. And when we really meditate on all these requirements, we see that being a Christian might not be as easy as we thought.

6.

REWARDS GOD HAS PROMISED IN HIS KINGDOM

In Mat 19:27-28 Jesus promised the 12 apostles who forsook all to follow him that they would sit on 12 thrones in his Kingdom judging Israel. In Mat 19:29 he promised a hundredfold and eternal life to anyone who would do the same. The scriptures in Mark are even clearer.

* Mar 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mar 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

There are other scriptures that tell us about the rewards God will be giving to people in his Kingdom. For example, King David will be raised and once again reign over Israel. (Jer 30:9, Eze 34:23, 37:24) Faithful Christians will rule over a number of cities according to how they have been profitable servants in this life (Luk 19:15-19) And Rev 5:10 tells us that faithful Christians shall be kings and priests reigning on the earth.

An interesting story in Mat 20:20-24 is that the mother of James and John asked Jesus to give her sons high positions in his Kingdom, to sit on his right hand and on his left. Jesus asked them if they were able to die as he would die. They said yes. Then he told them that those positions were not his to give, but would be given to those for whom it is prepared by his Father.

7.

RICH MEN WILL ONLY HARDLY ENTER THE KINGDOM

Here are scriptures showing attitudes of rich people that explain why they shall only hardly enter God's kingdom.

* Pro 14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich [hath] many friends.

Note: The rich tend to have plenty of friends. And peer pressure can be a strong influence to lead astray

* Pro 18:11 The rich man's wealth [is] his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit.

Pro 28:11 The rich man [is] wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

Note: Wealth can make a man conceited

* Pro 18:23 The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

Note: The rich can tend to be proud and show it by how they speak to others

* Ecc 5:12 The sleep of a labouring man [is] sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

Note: Concern for their wealth may not allow rich men to concentrate very well on spiritual things.

* Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me.

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Note: When given a choice between God and wealth, rich men will often choose their wealth. Therefore Jesus said that rich men shall only hardly enter the Kingdom of God and then only because with God all things are possible. Abraham was very rich and we know that he will be in God's Kingdom. Gen 13:2 And Abram [was] very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

* Luk 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

Luk 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

Luk 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Note: In this parable, the rich man was not invited into God's Kingdom, but the beggar, Lazarus was. The rich may tend to ignore the needs of the poor and lay up treasures for themselves.

* 1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Note: The desire for riches can lead to snares or traps, temptations to sin and foolish lusts.

* 1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Note: The rich may tend to be highminded and trust in their riches more than in God. They may not be very rich in good works. As we see here, it is not a sin to be rich. But those who are need to be charged to watch their attitudes carefully.

* Jam 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Jam 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Note: The rich may tend to despise the poor, oppress and judge them

* Jam 5:1 Go to now, [ye] rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon [you].

Jam 5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

Jam 5:3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Jam 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Jam 5:5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Jam 5:6 Ye have condemned [and] killed the just; [and] he doth not resist you.

Note: The rich may tend to defraud their poor employees. They tend to live in pleasure and wanton meaning a soft and luxurious life. They tend to condemn those who are just

* Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Note: The rich may tend boast of their riches and be blind of their own true spiritual condition

8.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND KINGDOM OF GOD MEAN THE SAME THING

Mat 19:23 and 24 show that the two expressions, 'Kingdom of Heaven' and 'Kingdom of God' mean the same thing.

9.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS CALLED THE REGENERATION

In Mat 19:28 The Kingdom of God is also referred to as the 'regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory'. The word 'regeneration' is the Greek 'paliggenesia' and means new birth, renewal, recreation as in the renovation of the earth after Noah's flood. The regeneration will take place at the second coming of Jesus Christ when he returns in glory to set up his Kingdom. This word 'regeneration' is also used to describe the newly renovated person when he receives the holy spirit.

* Tts 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done , but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

As we know, Jesus did not come to sit on a throne in his first coming, but to die for our sins. Today, Jesus is sitting on a throne at the right hand of his father God in Heaven.

* Hbr 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

* Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

It is at his second coming to set up the Kingdom of God, that Jesus will sit on the throne of his glory as we see in Mat 19:28. This is confirmed also in Mat 25:31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

10.

MANY THAT ARE FIRST SHALL BE LAST AND THE LAST FIRST

Mat 19:1-2 tells us that Jesus was teaching these things concerning the rich hardly entering the Kingdom when he had departed from Galilee and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan and great multitudes followed him there. These teachings continue until Mat 20:17 when Jesus left this place and went up to Jerusalem with the 12 disciples. This verse, “many [who are] first shall be last; and the last [shall be] first”, (Mat 19:30) is the last verse in chapter 19 and is explained by the parable of the laborers in the vineyard in chapter 20. (See note # 32.)