

# Luke 18:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

## Analysis

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**And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**—Idōn auton perilypon genomenon (ἰδὼν αὐτὸν περίλυπον γενόμενον)—'seeing him become very sorrowful,' Jesus responds with sober warning. Pōs dyskolōs hoi ta chrēmata echontes eisporēyontai eis tēn basileian tou theou (πῶς δυσκόλως οἱ τὰ χρήματα ἔχοντες εἰσπορεύονται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ)—'how difficult for those having riches to enter God's kingdom.'

Dyskolōs (δυσκόλως) means 'with difficulty,' 'hardly,' 'painfully.' Not impossible, but extremely difficult. Wealth creates false security, making humble dependence (childlike reception, tax collector's cry for mercy) psychologically difficult. The rich feel self-sufficient, able to solve problems with money, less aware of desperate need for grace. Wealth becomes functional savior, competing with Christ.

## Historical Context

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Jesus's statement shocked His disciples (v. 26) because conventional Judaism taught that wealth evidenced God's favor. The Abrahamic covenant promised material blessing (Genesis 12:2); Deuteronomy linked obedience to prosperity (28:1-14). But Jesus reveals wealth's spiritual danger: it deceives people into trusting themselves rather than God. The rich possess resources that seemingly

eliminate dependence on divine provision, making childlike reception of the kingdom psychologically difficult.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why does wealth make humble, dependent reception of God's kingdom psychologically difficult?
2. How does Jesus's teaching reverse conventional assumptions about riches indicating divine favor?
3. What forms of 'wealth'—resources, abilities, achievements—might create false self-sufficiency in your life?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἰδὼν	δὲ	αὐτὸν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	περίλυπον	γενόμενον	εἶπεν
saw	And	that he	G3588	when Jesus	very sorrowful	was	he said
G1492	G1161	G846		G2424	G4036	G1096	G2036

Πῶς	δυσκόλως	οἱ	τὰ	χρήματα	ἔχοντες	εἰσελεύσονται
How	hardly	G3588	G3588	riches	that have	enter
G4459	G1423			G5536	G2192	G1525

εἰς	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ
into	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of God
G1519		G932		G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 11:28** (Parallel theme): He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

**Proverbs 30:9** (References God): Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

**Psalms 10:3** (Parallel theme): For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.

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