

# 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

**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 eisporouontai 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

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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Ίδων 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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