

# Luke 18:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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**—Jesus uses vivid, absurd imagery. Eukopōteron gar estin kamēlon dia trēmatos belonēs eiselthein (εὐκοπώτερον γάρ ἔστιν κάμηλον διὰ τρῆματος βελόνης εἰσελθεῖν)—'it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye.' Kamēlos (κάμηλος) is the largest animal in Palestine; belonē (βελόνη) is a sewing needle with tiny eye.

This is deliberate hyperbole showing impossibility. Some claim 'needle's eye' was a narrow Jerusalem gate requiring camels to kneel, but this misses the point: Jesus describes the impossible. The disciples correctly respond, 'Who then can be saved?' (v. 26). Jesus answers: 'Things impossible with men are possible with God' (v. 27). Salvation—for rich or poor—requires divine miracle, not human achievement. Wealth simply makes the impossibility more visible.

## Historical Context

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Jesus's audience, accustomed to viewing wealth as divine blessing, found this teaching devastating. If the rich—seemingly most blessed by God—can barely be saved, who can? Jesus exposes wealth's spiritual danger while pointing to salvation's true source: God's power, not human effort. The rich young ruler exemplified humanity's universal problem: inability to save ourselves. His wealth merely made the diagnosis obvious. All people—rich and poor—need divine grace to enter God's kingdom.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What does the camel/needle imagery reveal about salvation as divine miracle rather than human achievement?
2. How do the disciples' question ('Who then can be saved?') and Jesus's answer ('With God all things are possible') transform understanding of salvation?
3. In what ways does wealth make humanity's universal inability to save itself more visible rather than creating a unique problem?

## Interlinear Text

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εύκοπώτερον γάρ ἐστιν κάμηλον διὰ τρυμαλιᾶς

easier For it is for a camel through eye  
G2123 G1063 G2076 G2574 G1223 G5168

ραφίδος εἰσελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ

a needle's to enter than for a rich man into the kingdom G3588  
G4476 G1525 G2228 G4145 G1519 G932 G3588

θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν

of God to enter  
G2316 G1525

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