

Mark 10:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus beholding him loved him said One thing thou lackest go sell whatsoever thou hast give to poor thou shalt have treasure in heaven come take up cross follow me. Beholding emblepsas looked intently. Loved ēgapēsen genuine affection. Said eipen. One thing hen single issue. Lackest hysterei lacking missing. Go hypage depart. Sell pōlēson liquidate. Whatsoever hosa possessions. Give dos distribute. To poor ptōchois destitute. Treasure thēsauron wealth. In heaven en ouranō eternal. Come deuro return. Take up aras burden. Cross stauron instrument of death. Follow me akolouthei discipleship. Jesus loved rich young ruler but demanded total surrender. One thing lacked total allegiance. Wealth was idol. Jesus does not demand all sell all but this man needed to. Reformed theology affirms nothing can compete with Christ for supreme allegiance.

Historical Context

Rich young ruler kept commandments externally but loved wealth supremely. Jesus exposed idolatry. Not that riches inherently evil but anything loved more than God is idol. This man could not let go departed sorrowful (v. 22). Many wealthy in church history who used riches for kingdom. Not riches but love of riches that condemns. Jesus words harder for rich enter kingdom (v. 23-25). Wealth creates illusion of self-sufficiency. Poor recognize need rich feel secure. Camels eye of

needle illustrates impossibility trusting wealth and trusting God. Modern prosperity gospel says God wants you rich. Jesus warns against riches as spiritual danger. Reformed theology emphasizes God own sovereignty calls some to wealth most to modest means measures success by faithfulness not finances.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus command this particular man to sell all when not all Christians required to do so?
2. What does rich young ruler inability to let go of wealth teach about idolatry of riches?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐμβλέψας	αὐτῷ	ἠγάπησεν	αὐτῷ	καὶ
G3588	Then	Jesus	beholding	him	loved	him	and
	G1161	G2424	G1689	G846	G25	G846	G2532
εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Ἐν	σοί	ὕστερεϊ·	ὑπάγε	ὅσα	ἔξεις
said	him	One thing	thou	lackest	go thy way	whatsoever	thou hast
G2036	G846	G1520	G4671	G5302	G5217	G3745	G2192
πώλησον	καὶ	δός	τοῖς	πτωχοῖς	καὶ	ἔξεις	θησαυρόν
sell	and	give	G3588	to the poor	and	thou hast	treasure
G4453	G2532	G1325		G4434	G2532	G2192	G2344
ἐν	οὐρανῷ	καὶ	δεῦρο	ἀκολούθει	μοι	ἄρας	τὸν
in	heaven	and	come	and follow	me	take up	G3588
G1722	G3772	G2532	G1204	G190	G3427	G142	
σταυρόν							
the cross							
G4716							

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 2:20 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 2:14 (Parallel theme): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Revelation 2:4 (Love): Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Acts 2:45 (Parallel theme): And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Luke 12:33 (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

James 2:10 (Parallel theme): For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Hebrews 10:34 (Parallel theme): For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Matthew 16:24 (Cross): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 19:21 (References Jesus): 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.

2 Corinthians 12:15 (Love): And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.