

# Matthew 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Jesus' vivid metaphor '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' emphasizes impossibility from human perspective. The camel was the largest common Palestinian animal; the needle's eye was the smallest opening—hyperbolic impossibility. Some suggest the 'needle's eye' was a small gate, but this misses Jesus' point: human effort can't achieve salvation, whether rich or poor. Only divine grace (v. 26) saves.

## Historical Context

This statement shocked the disciples who asked 'Who then can be saved?' (v. 25). If the wealthy (apparently blessed) can't be saved, no one can by human effort. Jesus' answer: 'With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible' (v. 26). Salvation is God's work, not human achievement—encouraging for all, rich or poor.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Why is the rich man's difficulty entering the kingdom actually everyone's difficulty?
2. How does recognizing salvation's impossibility drive you to depend on God's grace?

## Interlinear Text

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πάλιν δὲ λέγω ὅμιν εὐκοπώτερόν ἐστιν κάμηλον  
again And I say unto you easier It is for a camel  
G3825 G1161 G3004 G5213 G2123 G2076 G2574

διὰ τρυπῆματος ῥαφίδος διελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς  
through the eye of a needle to go than for a rich man into  
G1223 G5169 G4476 G1330 G2228 G4145 G1519

τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν  
the kingdom of God to enter  
G3588 G3588 G932 G2316 G1525

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 5:44** (References God): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

**Matthew 19:26** (References God): But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

**Luke 18:25** (Kingdom): 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.

**Jeremiah 13:23** (Parallel theme): Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

**Matthew 23:24** (Parallel theme): Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

