

# 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

---

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

---

πάλιν	δὲ	λέγω	ὑμῖν	εὐκοπώτερόν	ἐστιν	κάμηλον
again	And	I say	unto you	easier	It is	for a camel
G3825	G1161	G3004	G5213	G2123	G2076	G2574
διὰ	τρυπήματος	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		
G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of God	to enter		
	G932		G2316	G1525		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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.

