

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—vertigo
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ **Others in Need**
- ◆ Travis Barrow—rare condition
- ◆ Phil Benson—kidney dialysis
- ◆ Rhonda Compton—sick
- ◆ Danny Davis—health problems
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ◆ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
- ◆ Kiptyn Gillis—non-cancerous tumor
- ◆ Jamie Goodman—colon cancer
- ◆ Russell Gunter—surgery recovery
- ◆ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ◆ Andrew Hickman—health problems
- ◆ Tony Jones—health problems
- ◆ Joel Murphey—B-cell lymphoma

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Stacey Scherl—surgery
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer treatment
- ◆ Joanna Wilson—expecting
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.
- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, enemies.

Events

If the Lord wills...

- Sept. 7**
Meal after AM Worship
- Sept. 14**
Men's Meeting
- Oct. 4**
Esto "Faith and Fellowship"

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

To Our Visitors

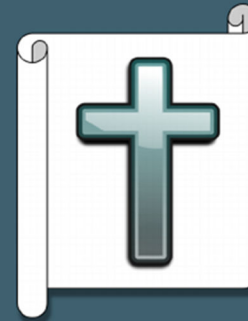


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements: Leo Derrick
Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Caleb Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Mark Howze; Helpers: Caleb Howze, Ezra Howze, Glenn Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Mark Howze
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Bible Reading: Jacob Mashburn



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

September 7, 2025

Meeting Times

Sundays:
 10AM Bible Class
 11AM Worship
 6PM Worship
Wednesdays:
 7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:
churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:
 104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
WAAZ1047.com livestream

Jason Hilburn's Info:
 850-826-8198
hilburnjasonp@gmail.com
TheBibleDomain.com
JasonsBibleBlog.com

A Few Words from Jason

One of the students in the Twin States Bible School decided to obey the Gospel! His name is Jeevan, and brother Vandan Kumar said there are also others who are interested in being baptized soon, possibly when the students travel from their various villages for classes. There have also been two baptisms in Pakistan recently. We thank God for His grace extended through the Gospel of Christ.

"Easier For A Camel To Go Through The Eye Of A Needle"

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 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. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:23-26).

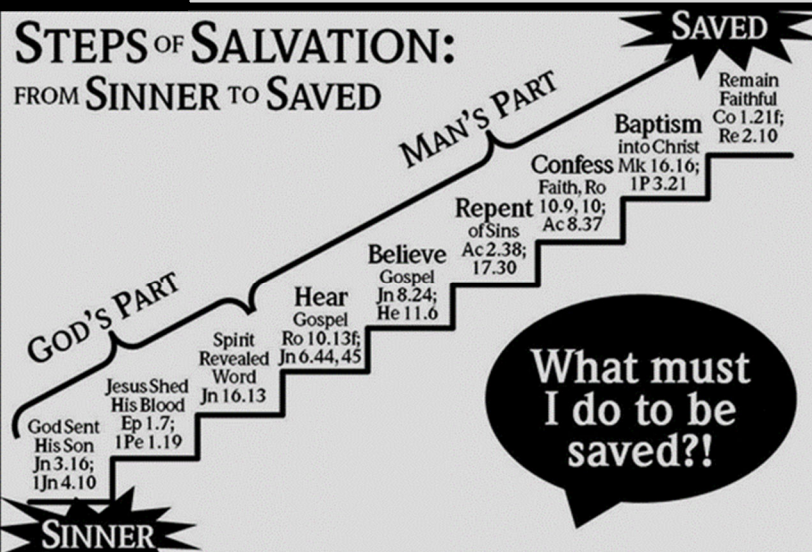
This is one of the difficult statements of Jesus. It almost seems as though He was discouraging a portion of His followers and future followers (the rich) from coming after Him. Yet His statement was not meant to be discouraging, but a warning of the potential danger that riches can be to one's spiritual well-being.

What Jesus Does Not Say

It is important to first notice what Jesus was not saying here. First of all, Jesus was not saying that the rich cannot be saved. Rather, He said it is "hard" for them to be saved. We will consider

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

some reasons in a moment as to why this is. But we must first have this in our minds – those who are rich can be saved because God makes it “possible” for them to be saved.

Jesus was also not saying that riches are evil. Paul wrote, **“For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10)**. He did not say that money itself was the root of evil. Riches can come as a result of man being blessed by God through His providence (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

Something else that Jesus did not explain is the definition of rich. If you ask people in this country what qualifies someone as “rich,” some might say that one who has a million dollars or more is rich. Others might judge it by one’s income level. Certain lawmakers have latched onto the figure of \$250,000 as the annual household income that marks the threshold between the rich and the middle class. Yet having a \$40,000 household income would seem “rich” to many in poor nations around the world. Jesus was not talking about how much money one has or what their income level is per se. Rather, He was addressing an attitude about riches and the need to put spiritual things first.

Riches Can Be A Hindrance

When Jesus said that it is hard, but not impossible, for a rich man to be saved, He was warning that riches can be a hindrance in one’s pursuit of eternal life. He made this point in the parable of the sower as He explained the seed that fell among the thorns: **“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (Luke 8:14)**.

Notice that those who were represented by the thorny ground initially received the word and some growth began. But the “cares and riches and pleasures of this life” choked out the word and made them unfruitful. Focusing too much on the things of this life, which is common for those who have an abundance (Ecclesiastes 5:12), makes it easier to ignore spiritual things. Notice the parable of the rich land owner:

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:15–21).

This man’s sin was not in his prosperity, but in his neglect of spiritual things. Jesus said, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24)**. Unfortunately, many (though not all) of the rich serve wealth as their idol, making it impossible for them to serve God faithfully. This is why the Law of Moses contained the following warning regarding the rich blessings of the promised land:

“Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his

commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage” (Deuteronomy 8:11–14).

This is the attitude that Jesus was warning about – arrogance, complacency, and being more concerned about earthly things than heavenly things. This is why Jesus said, **“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” (Matthew 19:24)**.

How To Keep Riches From Being A Hindrance

As we have already noticed, Jesus did not say that it is impossible for a rich man to be saved. So how can we keep from letting our riches (however much they might be) hinder us in our pursuit of heaven?

Remember that all blessings come from God – James wrote, **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17)**. Riches are among the many blessings which God bestows upon us (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

Remember that riches are temporary and uncertain – Timothy received this message from Paul: **“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17)**. Jesus warned about one fixing his hope on earthy treasures as well: **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal” (Matthew 6:19)**. All earthly treasures can be lost, stolen, or destroyed. Besides this, when we die, any riches we have will be left behind (1 Timothy 6:7; Ecclesiastes 5:15).

Do good with your blessings – In writing to Timothy about the rich, Paul said, **“That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate” (1 Timothy 6:18)**. Solomon, who recognized riches as being a **“gift of God” (Ecclesiastes 5:19)**, also said, **“I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life” (Ecclesiastes 3:12)**. Paul said that the fruit of one’s labor allows him to **“have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28)**. Those who are rich have an even greater ability to do this.

Recognize the greater riches that await the faithful in heaven – No matter how much wealth we accumulate in this life, it will be nothing compared with the reward in heaven. Jesus asked, **“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)**. The reward for the faithful is described as **“An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4; cf. Matthew 6:20–21)**.

The rich man can be saved. But he must put God first ahead of his riches. For many, this is difficult. But we must remember the reward that awaits us, avoid the love of money, put the Lord first, and serve God rather than our earthly possessions.

—Kent Bailey, adapted