

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The rich youth

¹⁶It was then that a young man approached him and asked:

—Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?

¹⁷Jesus answered:

—Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments.

¹⁸The young man said:

—Which commandments?

Jesus replied:

—*Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness,* ¹⁹*honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.*

²⁰The young man said to him:

—I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?

²¹Jesus answered:

—If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me.

²²On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

²³Then Jesus said to his disciples:

—Truly I say to you: it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴Yes, believe me: it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁵On hearing this the disciples were astonished and said:

—Who, then, can be saved?

²⁶Jesus looked steadily at them and answered:

—For humans it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.

²⁷Then Peter spoke up and said:

—You see we have given up everything to follow you: what will be our lot?

²⁸Jesus answered:

—You who have followed me, listen to my words: on the Day of Renewal, when the Son of Man sits on his throne in glory, you, too, will sit on twelve thrones to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹As for those who have left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or property for my Name's sake, they will receive a hundredfold and be given eternal life. ³⁰Many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first.

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