



# Devotional 5 My Poor Riches

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Matthew 19:25-26

*“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”*

## Introduction

**W**hen it comes to sharing the gospel with others, there is a particular group of people that brings fear and skepticism in most of us and those are the rich and wealthy. Luckily for us that attitude towards this group of people has been there since Jesus was with his disciples walking the roads of Judea. The best example to describe the attitude that people have about sharing the news of salvation with the wealthy is described in the story about the Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19: 16-26. This ruler was rich, and the Bible says that Jesus asked him to leave all his earthly possessions and follow Him, *the young ruler went away sad, because he was very rich* Matthew 19:22.

What is more surprising and a reflection of our modern perception about sharing the gospel with rich people is the reaction that the disciples had after the young ruler left and rejected the invitation of the Savior. They asked Jesus: *“How can*

*anyone ever be saved?"* (v. 25) but Jesus gave the perfect response to such a faithless question, *"there are some things people cannot do, but God can do anything"* (v. 26). That is at the center of any evangelistic outreach meant to share the gospel with the rich especially in this modern society.

What we see as something impossible, God has no limits and to achieve with success what we humans perceived as impossible. God is just waiting for us to make the first move and consider this group as people that can be saved. I recently watch a clip from a story that had a very successful and wealthy couple. With hard work and ingenuity, they had built a multimillion-dollar toy company. They owned several mansions that had anything that you could ever imagine. They had a beautiful family and from the outside you would think that they had no needs. Then as the couple sat down to discuss the success of their company the reporter asked the women about her feelings towards life and success, and she shared that since she was 5 years old, she felt an emptiness in her soul that she kept from everyone else including her husband and business partner for over 40 years. She felt like life had no meaning. She didn't care her life was surrounded by material possessions she wanted to fill the void in her soul. We have to recognize that this group of people have the need of a Savior.

The apostle Paul delighted in the opportunity to share the gospel in the court of Agrippa's and other dignitaries. Daniel and his Jewish friends

were an example of faith and loyalty to God in the court of Nebuchadnezzar. Joseph did the same in ancient Egypt while serving Pharaoh. Because of the boldness of the young slave in Naaman's home he was eventually cured and became to know and love the God of Israel. In this modern society we must seek the opportunities to share the gospel with the rich. Jesus came to save anyone who believes in Him. What might seem impossible for men, is really possible for God. Let's ask God with an open heart to reach these people that are in desperate need of a Savior.

### Prayer

Dear God, we pray with open hearts, guided by the lesson from Matthew 19:25-26. We know that sharing the gospel with the rich can be challenging, but we remember that with you, anything is possible. Like the disciples who wondered if anyone could be saved, we may doubt our ability to reach the wealthy. However, history shows us that you can touch the lives of even those who seem beyond reach. Just as people like Paul, Daniel, and Joseph brought your message to powerful leaders, help us find opportunities to share your love with the rich in our world today. Let us see them as individuals who also need a Savior. Give us the courage, wisdom, and kindness to bring your word to them, knowing that what appears difficult for us is achievable for you. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.