

The Plight of the Over Privileged

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Mark 10:13-31.
- B. This has been called the Magna Carta of Children.

II. Jesus was angry when the disciples denied children to come to Jesus.

- A. Children were made for God, and children found Jesus attractive.
- B. Jesus is the one children need above all else.
- C. Adults must get out of the way and let them come to Jesus.
- D. A child is imaginative, teachable and obedient by nature.

III. The rich young ruler.

A. In response to the question about qualities necessary to enter the kingdom, Jesus asks why the man calls Him good saying no one is good but God.

- 1. Some have said this is a denial of deity.
- 2. However, this can be taken as a claim to deity. If one calls Jesus truly good, then one is recognizing Him as God because man is not good.
- 3. Jesus is in search to see whether the man is teachable or not.

B. Jesus tests the man with regard to his obedience to the commandments.

C. This rich young man may have been Mark himself.

D. Jesus' teaching about affluence.

- 1. It is terribly dangerous to the soul.
- 2. It is impossible for a rich man to enter into heaven, but not for God.
 - a. It is impossible because riches destroy the qualities one must have to enter the kingdom.
 - b. It creates a pursuit for secondary concerns instead of primary concerns.
 - c. It destroys a teachable spirit because it creates a false sense of authority.
 - d. Affluence makes the rich slaves to comfort.

E. If one is willing to hold his possessions lightly recognizing they are all God's, then he will have the right attitude towards wealth whether he has it or not.

Application questions:

1. In what ways can adults hinder children from coming to Jesus? Explain.

2. Does Jesus deny His own deity in this passage? Defend your answer.

3. How have you struggled with a love for money? How does this message challenge you to use your money differently?
