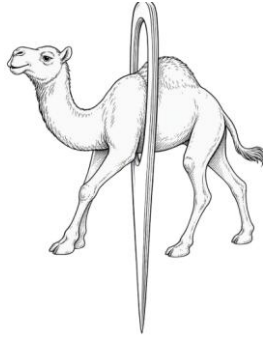


What is most important?



As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.’”

“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me.”

At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

~ Mark 10:17-27 ~

What is the most important thing in your life?

If somebody asked you that, how would you answer that question?

In this part of the true Jesus story a rich man came up to Jesus and asked him what he had to do to have eternal life, that is to be part of God’s perfect, forever family.

Jesus asked him if he had followed God's rules about loving other people, and the man was sure he had done that. Then Jesus told them man to sell everything he had, give the money to the poor and follow him.

This made the man feel gutted and he walked away from Jesus.

But Jesus wasn't saying that having money and things is a what keeps us out of being part of God's perfect, forever family. No, Jesus was pointing out that for this man money was more important to him than following Jesus.

If we want to be part of God's perfect, forever family we need to have Jesus as the most important thing in our lives. That means we are trusting that Jesus died and came alive again so we could have our sins forgiven and letting Jesus shape the way we live.

There are many things in our lives, even good things, that might try and take that number spot away from Jesus – like money, or friends, or family, or sport, or being good at school – but Jesus is really clear, if we want to be part of his perfect, forever family, then Jesus has to be the most important thing on our lives.

So is Jesus the most important thing in your life?

Some questions to think about:

1. What was the really good question the man asked Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus tell the man to sell everything he had and give the money to the poor?
3. Why was the man upset by this?
4. Why is it important to have Jesus as the most important thing in your life?
5. Is Jesus the most important thing in your life?

Prayer

Dear God,

You know that there are many things that try and be number one in my life, and some of them are even good things. Please help me to see that Jesus is number one and live a life that shows he is the most important in my life.

Amen.