

## WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?

**TEXT:**        *Mark 10:26: And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?*

Jesus was telling them how hard it was for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The disciples seemed to have the same opinion that most men hold today — that a rich man can go anywhere or do anything. But Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved; If, then, the rich will find it hard to get saved, what chance has anybody else?



Who then, can be saved?

Jesus went on to tell them that although it was impossible with man for a rich man to be saved, (and I think all experience carries out this thought that the rich stand the poorest chance of salvation of anybody on earth), God, with whom all things are possible, could save even the rich — but nobody but He can do it.

The great question of life is: WHO, THEN, CAN BE SAVED?

The Bible tells us fully and very plainly that there are some people who can, and others who cannot, be saved. This may be a shock to you, but it is the truth.

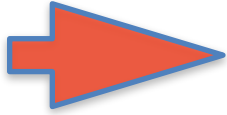
Who cannot be saved?

### **1. No man can be saved who will not give up his sins.**

*Isaiah 55:7: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

But, if he will not forsake his ways and will not turn to God, he cannot be saved. Jesus said in:

*Luke 13:3: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*



If you do not repent, you will go to Hell by virtue of your own refusal and rebellion against the Law of Divine Commandment. Every man and woman must choose between sin and salvation. You cannot have both. If you won't give up on your sins, you must give up salvation.

There are some in the devil's churches who teach a sinning religion, i.e., that as long as you are in this world, you cannot cease sinning. Those who advocate such are of the devil, as proved by:

***2 Peter 2:14: Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:***

We read in:

***Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.***

You cannot save a man from drowning if he fights your rescuing efforts.

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***Romans 3:23: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.***

***Romans 3:10: There is none righteous, no, not one:***

We all need saving, and we are not saved if we are still in our sins. This is the purpose of the coming of Jesus. Sin surely destroys, and the soul that sins, it shall die. If you continue in the things which kill your soul, then you are still a child of the devil.

A man is not cured until he is well. A man is not saved until he is through with sin.

The reason some of you are not saved is because you won't give up your wicked living. Some of you won't give up your booze; others profanity; others lying; others gambling; others worldliness and impurity; others stealing, etc.

If you won't turn, you will burn. You cannot be saved if you will not ask Jesus to save you from all your sins. If you persist in sin, you will be lost forever. You cannot love the world and be a Christian at the same time. You cannot be a follower of Jesus and live after the world.

**1 John 2:16: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

## **2. No man can be saved who trusts in his own righteousness.**

If you cannot save yourself based on your own righteousness, then you cannot be saved. You may try hard in yourself, but your good deeds, church attendance, and quitting your bad habits will not save you. You need to come to Jesus, the only Savior.

**Romans 3:20a: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His [God's] sight:**

**Titus 3:5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit;**

Jesus tells the story of a poor, lost, vile, miserable, and worthless sinner, and of a man who trusted in his own righteousness, believing he was not so bad. Both men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a lost sinner who knew it. The Pharisee – lost, but does not know it, for he has deceived his own heart by his moral life, prays thus:

**Luke 18:11b-12:**

**<sup>11</sup> God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.**

**<sup>12</sup> I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.**

But the publican, on the other hand, prayed as follows:

**Luke 18:13-14:**

**<sup>13</sup> And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto Heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.**

**<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

This religious man was lost, and Jesus said so. Anyone can be saved who will take the sinner's place and cry out: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and save me, for Jesus' sake."

**3. No man or woman can be saved who is not willing to accept salvation as provided by the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Gift.**

***Ephesians 2:8-9:***

***<sup>8</sup> For by Grace are ye saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God:***

***<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

***Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.***

There is no other way; and if you are not willing to take Jesus as your Savior, then you have no salvation at all.

How many have tried to bypass Jesus from being their Savior!

**There is no other way; and if you are not willing to take Jesus as your Savior, then you have no salvation at all.**

***Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***

Nobody can be saved who will not believe in Jesus as the divine Son of God. Jesus is no mere man. He is the Divine, pure Savior of the world.

***John 1:29: Behold the Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sin of the world.***

WHO THEN, CAN BE SAVED? Sinners — even the vilest! We read in:

***1 Timothy 1:15: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.***

Any man or woman too weak to resist sin can be saved. It is not a question of strength of your own, but the question is: Do you hate your sins enough to want to be delivered from their penalty? Jesus is able to keep you from failing. We are kept by the power of God.

I have heard folks get up and testify: *“I am a man of decision, of character. When I make up my mind to do a thing, I always do it. I have started out in the Christian life, and I am going to see myself through”.*

Now, when I hear a person talk like that, I know they will either be backslidden in about a month, or they are wearing themselves out trying to be morally straight and have fallen from grace. For if we seek to justify ourselves by works of the law, it says in **Galatians 5:4**:

***whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.***

We started in this way by trusting in another – even in Jesus.

***Galatians 3:11: But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The Just shall live by Faith.***

Faith is not in our decisions or our character, but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in:

***John 15:5: I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.***

***John 6:37: All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.***

***Acts 2:21: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.***

The background to this shocking, astonishing statement by Jesus is the appearance of the rich young ruler. The epitaph of the story is: He went away sorrowful.

Jesus had looked on this fine young man who was morally straight, a good citizen, and He loved him. Jesus admired him because he had the courage to come to Him openly and to fall at His feet. This was more remarkable because of the ruling class to which he belonged. He came and asked Jesus the greatest question of his life as recorded in:



***Mark 10:17: Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?***

Possessing all that the heart could desire in this life did not satisfy. He wanted to know about the life to come, for he knew he could not stay here always. His wealth gave him no assurance of a future hope. He sensed that he lacked something.



His approach to Jesus is the same as most sinners make — thoughts of doing good works to be saved. “What good thing shall I do?”

His strict observance of the commandments made him a splendid example of manhood, but he lacked something. Morality has its emptiness.

The devil has every heart deceived that we can DO some good thing to inherit life eternal. False religions teach this and receive thousands of followers, for this flatters the flesh and enhances pride already in the heart, which God hates.

Many want to earn eternal life by doing something good.

The confession of this seeker was that he kept all the commandments. He was not a murderer, adulterer, liar, or robber, but he knew he had fallen short somewhere. He could not say how many souls he had led to Christ for salvation, for he is not saved himself, only reformed. He may parade good words and deeds, but listen to the chilling words of Jesus:

***Matthew 19:21: If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come and follow Me.***

**Jesus did not say give all to the poor, but he hit the sore spot. The god of gold and covetousness is idolatry. If your prosperity lays first claims on your soul, it will keep you from Christ. It will rob you of eternal life, and it will steal the true riches not found on this earth.**



Many people want eternal life, but do not want to pay the price of the Gospel. There is a reproach connected with following Christ. Your social standing and reputation will be sneered upon, for the world has nothing to do with Jesus.

A lady told me she would give the world if she could have the joy of salvation I had. That is what it takes, beloved, to belong to Him.

### **Illustration:**

A woman bequeathed her soul to the devil.

If you will tell me how much it cost you to be a Christian, then I will tell you what your salvation is worth. It is worth no more than it cost. It cost Jesus His life, and it will cost you the same.

**The rich man turned away sorrowfully. No one ever turned away from Jesus joyfully. A selfish, disobedient heart either comes to Christ or goes to the devil. “You cannot serve God and mammon.”**



Notice, Jesus did not say in **Matthew 6:24**, you cannot have both, but He said you cannot serve

both. Wealth will often lead one away from

Christ, and toward the trust in uncertain riches. Jesus will dethrone from the heart that which would take His rightful place.

***Matthew 5:24: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.***

Life does not consist in the abundance of things a man possesses. Greed will take hold of the soul and cause many to enter into trades that are questionable. Jesus tells us of the deceitfulness of riches which choke the Word.

What will it cost you for NOT being a Christian. Now you are without joy, peace, hope, and eternal life; without a future home in Heaven; and without Christ. You are lost forever if you die today. There is but one place for you, and that is where the rich young man went. And in Hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment saying:



***Luke 16:24: Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.***

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