



## Threading the Needle

We now leave the kingdom parables in Matthew to look at a few other references to the kingdom.

Parable	Emphasis
Sower	
Mustard Seed	
Leaven	
Treasure/Pearl	
Dragnet	

### A. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God (Lk 18:25)

1. Context is a conversation a rich man had with Jesus (Lk 18:18-27)
3. Three impressive things happen at the front end of this story
  - (a)
  - (b)
  - (c)

Jesus said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God" (Lk 18:24). Why?

The very nature of this wealthy ruler asking Jesus about eternal life implies what?

Other wealth statements from our Lord:

- Mt 6:24 You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God and wealth
- Mt 13:22 the seed thrown among the thorns was choked by the \_\_\_\_\_ of riches

How does wealth deceive?

This is not a discourse on wealth, but actually what?

### B. The Parable: easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle

- some have suggested that "the eye of a needle" referred to a Jerusalem gate called "The Needle's Eye".  
Historically there is no evidence that such a gate existed in the time of Jesus
- the thought the Lord presents is an IMPOSSIBILITY (27)

What shocked the disciples about this statement?

Mk 10:27 "With people it is impossible..." What did Jesus mean?

How would God make that possible (27)?

Can you think of any Biblical examples of wealthy in the kingdom?

### C. A wealthy contrast (Lk 19:1-10)

What difference do you see in the attitudes of the rich ruler and Zacchaeus?

