

A ruler, a camel,  
and a toad....

Money matters

- First fruits
  - First of our time, treasure, talent is God's
  - Placing Him first puts us in position to be blessed by Him abundantly

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  - Placing Him first puts us in position to be blessed by Him abundantly
- God or Mammon is our Master
  - Can't serve both

Luke 16

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    - Doesn't understand who Jesus is
    - His faith is resting in his own abilities and blessings

Luke 16

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  - Follow God or follow mammon
  - Give away what you have in order to gain what you cannot buy
  - Bless others with your fruit and let God bless you with the fruit of the Holy Spirit

Luke 16

"But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich..."

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Whap - the reality everyone else dealt with who was following Jesus just hit this man in the face - and he went away sad "because he was very rich."

Luke 16

"And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said,

*'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For 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.'*"

Luke 16

"And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

And this is where  
the toad comes in...

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**Our perspective is very limited**  
• Things are seldom what they seem  
• Rich man can't see his spiritual need for the abundance in his life  
• The crowd can't see the rich man's need and assumes his wealth indicates God is pleased with him  
– So if he can't be saved, who in the world could?

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**God works in All things - He wastes NOTHING**

- God was at work in the midst of this man's blessings
- But there was a greater potential impact in the face of poverty
- If eternal life was the man's true desire, why did he go away sad?

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  - Sometimes it is the tough spots that illuminate

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  - Sometimes it is the tough spots that eradicate mammon in our lives

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**With God ALL things are possible**

- God is able to walk a camel through the eye of a needle
- More importantly, God can use times of blessing and times of grief or need or want or distress as times to reveal our true spiritual need

Back to the camel..

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- Jesus' word picture shows us the futility of human self-reliance for spiritual transformation
  - We must come to Him hungry, poor, realizing our need, not boasting of what we possess or what we've done

Back to the camel..

**With God ALL things are possible**

- Jesus' word picture shows us the futility of human self-reliance for spiritual transformation
  - We must come to Him hungry, poor, realizing our need, not boasting of what we possess or what we've done
  - And when we do, we are exceedingly and abundantly blessed

Luke 16

"Then Peter said,  
"See, we have left all and followed You."  
  
So He said to them,  
"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

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**Many times more**  
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– All as a result of letting go of what we hold on to and following Jesus

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- God or Mammon

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**Offering the first fruits**

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**Offering the first fruits**

- He opens the storehouses of heaven

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**Offering the first fruits**

- He opens the storehouses of heaven
- Test Him on this...