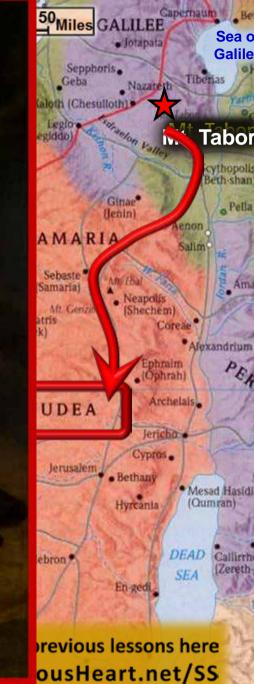




Interesting, the artist who did this, Heinrich Hoffman

Also did another exquisite piece that became, perhaps, the most well-known

by Heinrich Hofmann (1824-1911) Christ in Gethsemane, 1890, by Heinrich Hofmann (1824-1911), in the Riverside Church, New York City



	9	Jesu	s and the Kingdom of God Matthew 16-28			
	1.	Mar 5	Who is Jesus?	16:13-28	Caesarea Philippi	<b>)</b>
	2.	Mar 12	Is Jesus Fully God?	17:1-13	<b>Transfiguration</b>	
	3.	Mar 19	What Is Required?	19:16-26	Rich Young Ruler	
	4.	Mar 26	More than a Prophet	21:1-11	<b>Triumphant Entry</b>	. 10
	5.	Apr 2	If I Reject Jesus?	21:33-45	<b>Wicked Tenants</b>	parable ble
	6.	Apr 9	Offered to All?	22:1-14	<b>Wedding Banquet</b>	Parable Faster
	7.	Apr 16	Where Is Jesus?	28:1-15	Resurrection	Parable Faster
	8.	Apr 23	What About the Future?	24:36-5		Parable
	9.	Apr 30	How Do We Remember	? 26:36-4	16 Last Supper	
	10.	May 7	Do I Have the Strength?	26:36-4	46 Gethsemane	
<u></u>	11.	May 14	Loyal?	26-63-75	Peter's Denial	C
	12.	May 21	Crucified	27:41-52	Crucifixion	
	13.	May 28	What Do We Do Now?	28:16-20	<b>Great Commission</b>	n 🤾
	<u></u>	500				

#### **Lesson Author's Theme**

## Jesus offers the gift of eternal life to those willing to follow him.

#### Matthew

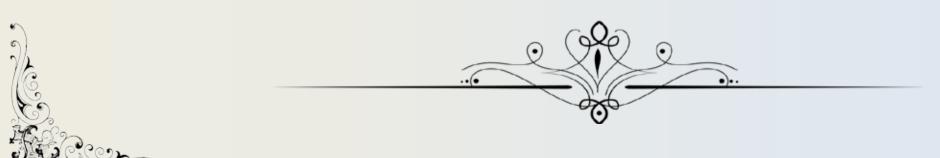
18:1-35 Who Is Greatest in Kingdom—a Child!

19:1-15 Marriage, Divorce, and Little Children

19:16-20 Standard Denied – Eternal Life >> Keep Commands

19:21-22 Impossible to Keep – Sell All & Give to Poor

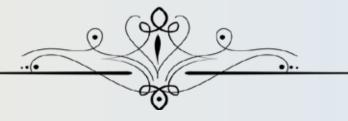
19:23-26 Provision to Accept – Hard for Rich, With God Good





#### **Key Verse Matthew 19:26**

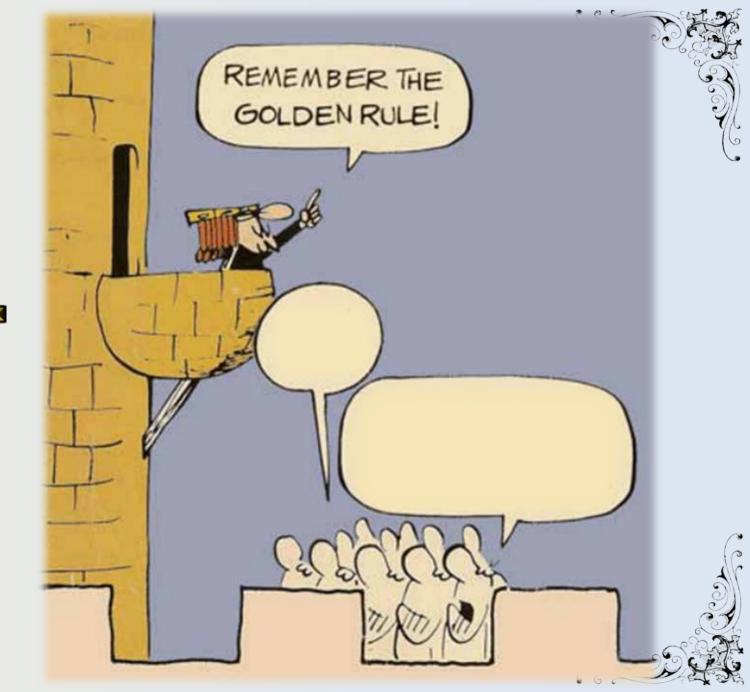
But Jesus looked at them and said, With men this is impossible, **But with God** All things are possible.







# Golden Rule





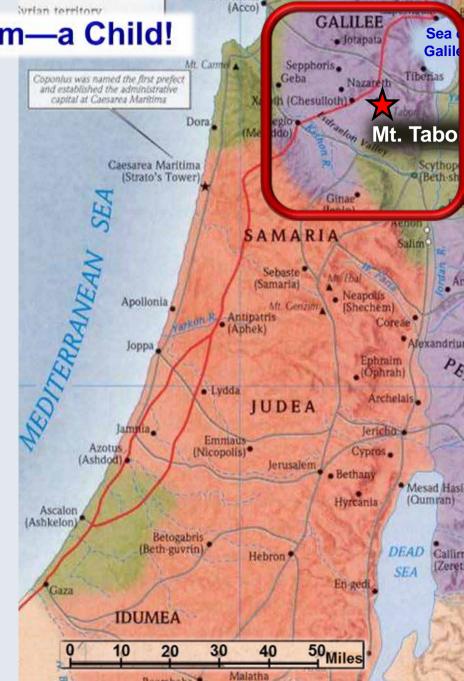
After the Transfiguration, perhaps on Mt. Tabor (perhaps), after coming down

chap. 18, we are somewhere still in Galilee

#### WHO is the Greatest?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2-3</sup> Jesus called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you CHANGE and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



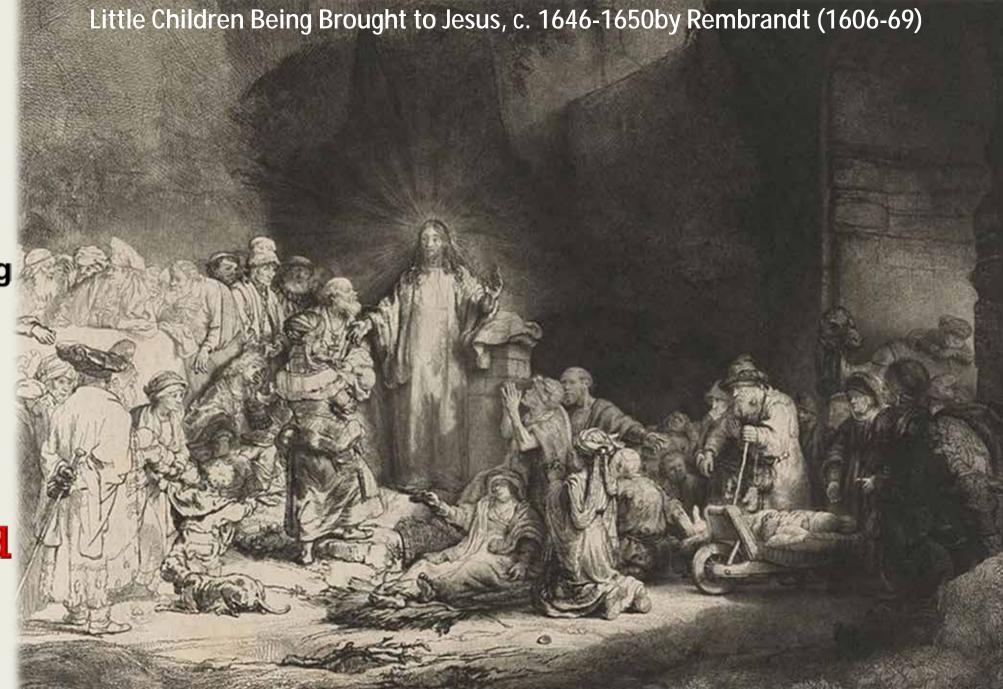


**Disciples** 

Learned something profound that day

Kingdom of God is like a ???

Child



Jesus gives us some of His most precious lines in this chapter

What is the Kingdom of Heaven LIKE?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

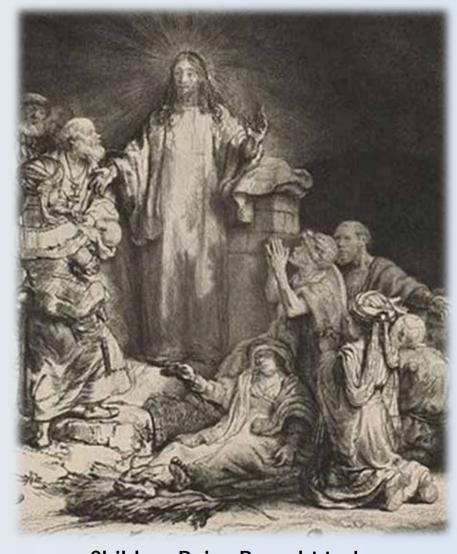
<sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Timespan of Chapters 18-19 ... hard to see

Apparently ... week or two

These set up the rest of chapters 18-19 on

Kingdom of Heaven?



Children Being Brought to Jesus c. 1646-1650, by Rembrandt (1606-69)

What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?

Lot written on "Kingdom of Heaven"

As mentioned on Matthew 16

Matthew used some words uniquely:

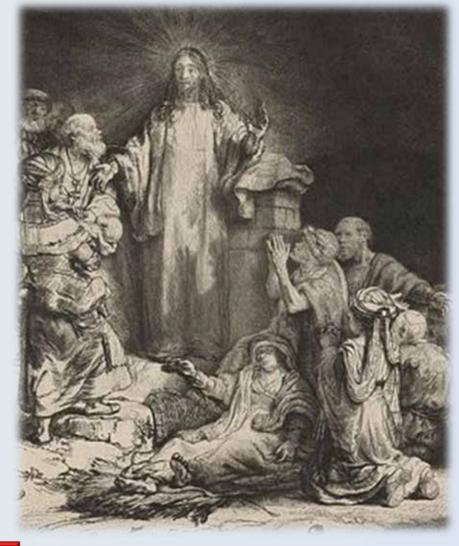
"Kingdom" appears about 100x

"Kingdom of Heaven" 32x

Cosmology of N.T. times included "heaven" was the atmosphere – okey dokey –

True ... but ALSO and clearly, in the N.T. "Kingdom of Heaven" is

God's reign over ALL



Children Being Brought to Jesus c. 1646-1650, by Rembrandt (1606-69)

What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?

#### WARNING WARNING

Yes, with respect to the KINGDOM ...

<sup>6</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Now, you CAN very well imagine Jesus HOLDING a little child WHILE saying that

**ANYONE** disagree with that?



Easy Rider, about two bikers cruzing

**NOT recommended for Sunday Church** 

Didn't even like the movie ... spaghetti western on cycles

"The Pusher" ... I dare NOT quote ALL the lyrics

Yet SOME apply here 100% ... listen closely

You know, I've seen a lot of people

walkin' 'round ...

With tombstones in their eyes

But the pusher don't care Ah, if you *live* or if you *DIE* 

**God damn, The Pusher** 



The Pusher ... by Steppenwolf

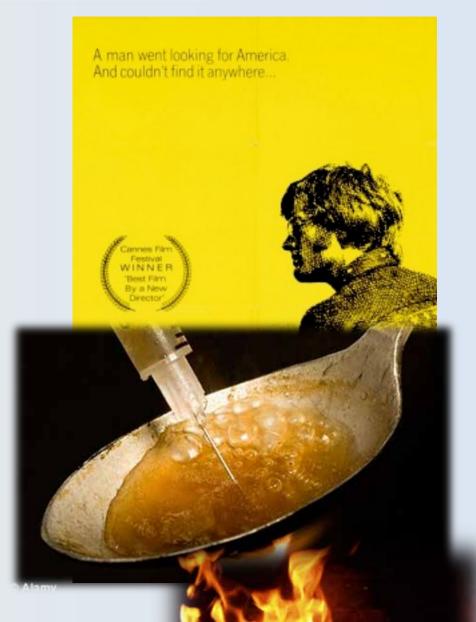
I KNOW those words are HARD to hear, but the imprecatory Psalms say the same

Oh but the pusher is a monster Good God, he's *NOT* a natural man

The dealer for a nickel Lord, will sell you lots of sweet dreams

Ah, but the pusher'll ruin your body Lord, he'll leave your ... mind to scream

God damn, The Pusher man repeats ... repeats



The Pusher ... by Steppenwolf

Well, now if I were the president of this land

You know, I'd declare total war on The Pusher Man

I'd cut him if he stands, and I'd shoot him if he'd run

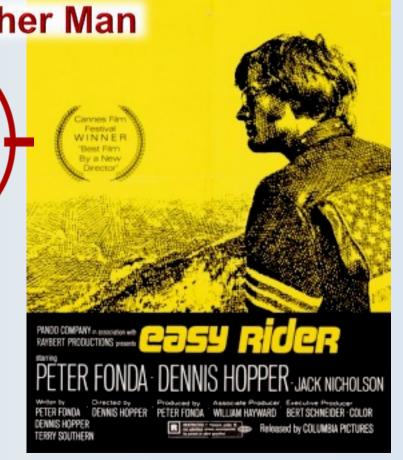
Yes I'd kill him with my Bible and my razor and my gun

God damn The Pusher ... repeats

**EXACTLY What CHRIST did** 

Condemned the Pusher Man

ALL who cause to stumble



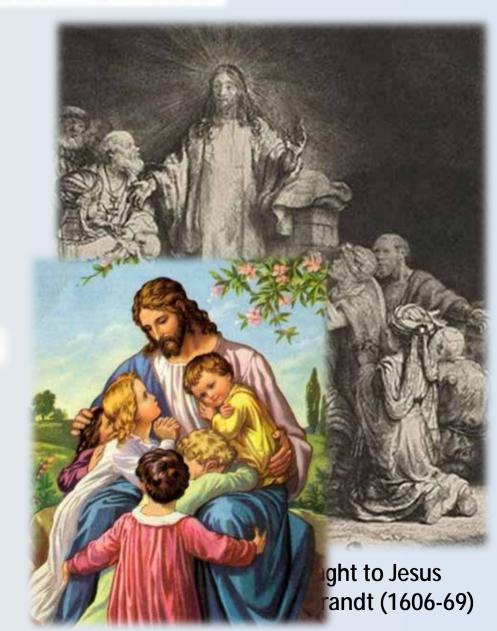
A man went looking for America. And couldn't find it anywhere...

What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?

<sup>6</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Yes, little children ... and Any Believer
Remember, Satan roams like a lion
There ARE those seeking to destroy
Better they be DROWNED

Oh, I agree ... agree 100%



#### DO NOTICE THIS

<sup>6</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble

little children ... and ALL Christians

This applies especially to WOLVES

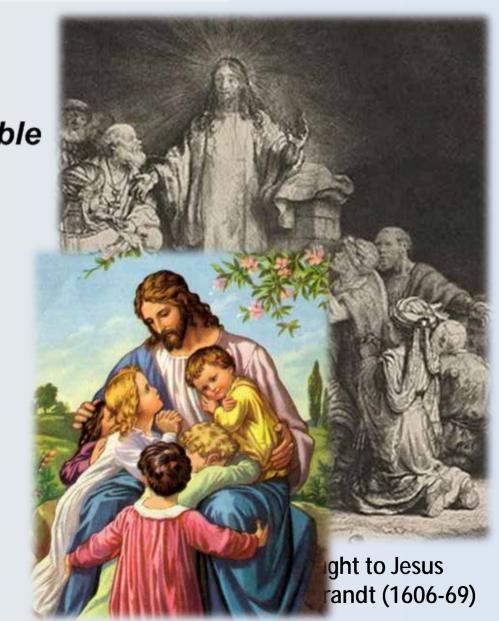
Wolves in sheep's clothing

False prophets ... as well as perverts

Ahhh ... perverts ARE False Prophets

Better they be **DROWNED** 

Oh, I agree ... agree 100%



<sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person THROUGH WHOM they come!

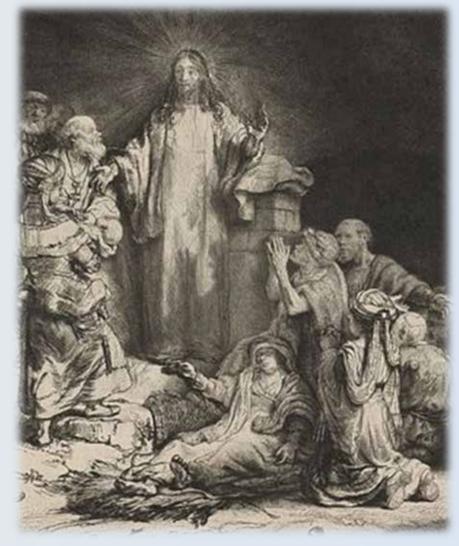
Jesus is VERY, VERY clear ...

Woe to the person THROUGH whom ...

**Spiritual Deceit comes** 

Cannot be clearer ...

but the disciples still struggle



Children Being Brought to Jesus c. 1646-1650, by Rembrandt (1606-69)

Jesus knows and clarifies,

8-9 Jesus goes to great, brutal lengths and says if your HAND or your EYEBALL causes you to stumble – DO WHAT?

#### cut it out.

Then, dear, darling ... preciously sweet words

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

Children & Young Believers—DEAR

What marvelously dear words



Children Being Brought to Jesus c. 1646-1650, by Rembrandt (1606-69)

Jesus clarifies more in the Parable of the Lost Sheep

100 Sheep & ONE that goes astray

English painter, Alford Soord's most famous painting is "The Lost Sheep"

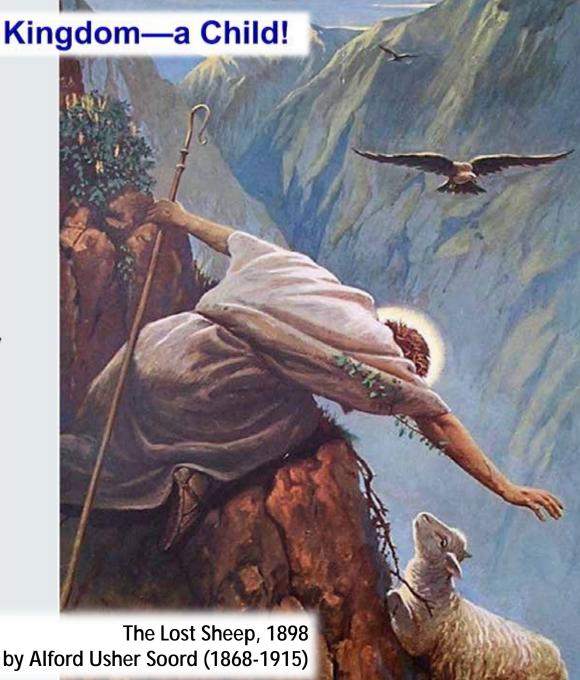
1898 Exhibited in the Royal Academy

By 1916, over 300,000 reproductions had sold in England & America

The shepherd RISKS his life to save

Then Jesus says something else

most outstanding



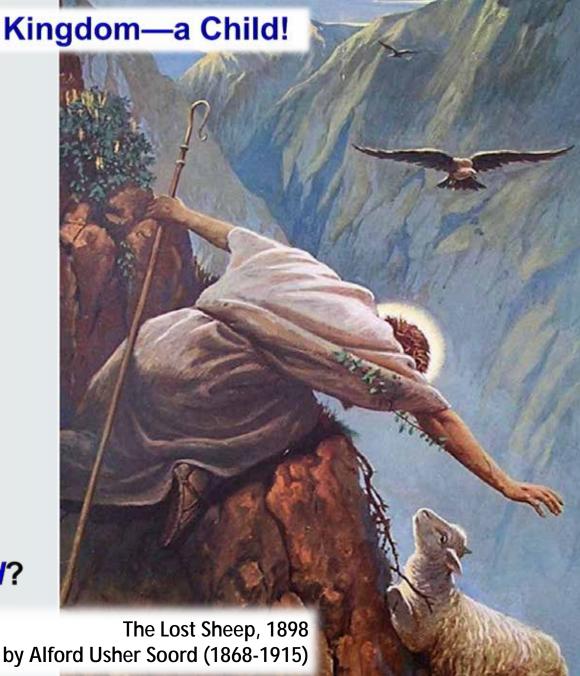
God's happier about one sheep than about the 99 that didn't wander off.

Hmmmm ... REALLY?

MORE Happy than ...
YOU & Me who STAYED?

<sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is NOT willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Ahhh ... Jesus is NOT through yet Still foggy on *Kingdom-like-a-Child*?



Jesus clarifies further on "sin"

15-16 If "sin"—go 1-on-1

- > then go with 2-3
- then take to the church

18-19 Jesus repeats "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven"

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

Not SURE what this means.

Some think it is a PRAYER GUARANTEE ...

More likely, it was a three-person court



Heaven illustrated in Dante's *The Divine Comedy* by Gustave Doré (1832-83)

19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

#### **LOOK SEE:**

Revelation 21:14 says:

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the TWELVE APOSTLES of the Lamb.

That is, heaven's WALL rests on the WORK of the 12 Apostles

That is—The 12 as Founders of

The Church

Not wood, hay, or stubble But jewels Precious & many



Note: are ONLY 12 apostles!

19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by MY Father in heaven.

#### **LOOK SEE:**

Matt. 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Matt. 21:22, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Likely, it was a three-person court that judges in the community where Shekinah aided

in the *Mishna*, 63 tractates by Rabbi Judah (died A.D. 217)

That is, what the DISCIPLES agreed to on earth would be agreed to in heaven

**Notice "MY Father"** 

That is, WHATEVER they did was ... assumed to also INVOLVE Jesus



**Notice what Jesus said NEXT:** 

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

NOT a mere Christian cliché ...

NOT meant to as a hoochy-goochy, feel-like, mystical hoovering

But a PROMISE of spiritual delicacy

or v. 18:20 in the KJV

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

NOW, look at the context again

#### Passage informs

18-19 Jesus repeats "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven"

19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

NOT a mere Christian cliché

**NOT just a promise of PRESENCE** 

Promise of Sheep GUIDANCE



The Lost Sheep, 1898 by Alford Usher Soord (1868-1915)

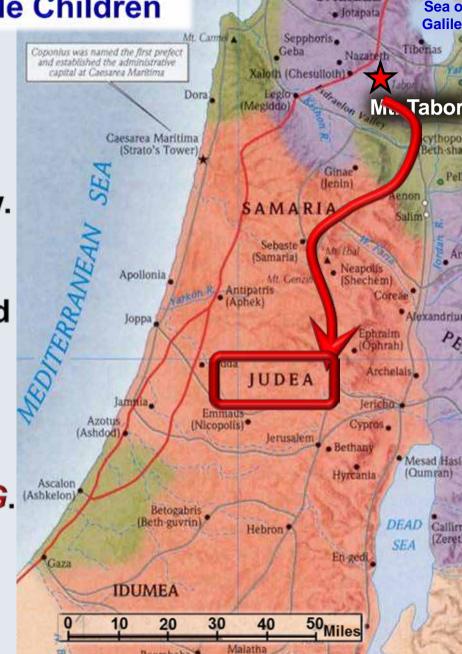
Jesus clarifies further on forgiveness

- <sup>21</sup> Peter asked how many x ... 7x?
- <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, 70 x 7!
- 23-34 Jesus tells parable of the King that forgives 10,000 talents of gold
- Then King condemns SAME MAN for *NOT* forgiving lower servant that owed mere 100 silver coins
  - 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



After a sweet chapter 18 on children and forgiveness, we come to chapter 19

- 1-2 Jesus departs from Galilee to the REGION OF JUDEA. Large crowds follow.
- <sup>3</sup> Pharisees ask about divorce.
- 4-6 Jesus says they're "one flesh," What God has joined, man must not separate
- Pharisees ask why Moses allowed
- 8 Jesus said because of their hard hearts, but it was NOT SO FROM THE BEGINNING.



<sup>9</sup> Jesus makes *EXCEPTION* for immorality

- 10 Disciples, "If so, better not to marry."
- 11 Jesus, "Not everyone can accept"
- 12 Jesus talks of eunuchs born, made, or who made themselves such for God

13-14 Jesus rebukes disciples for refusing the children, because ... Hear Ye, Hear Ye

"because the kingdom of heaven is made up of people like this."

Kingdom of Heaven is like



15 After putting His hands on them, He went on from there.

#### Children?

**Careless** 

This intrigues us

Most children are
Innocent
Playful
CURIOUS
Weak

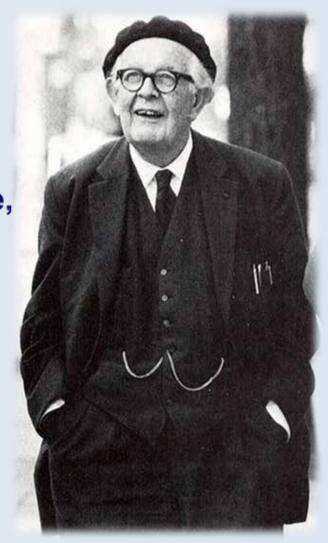


Jesus Blessing Little Children, 1866, by Currier & Ives (1834-1907).

Jean Piaget (1896-1980) paved the way in researching Child Development

- 1. 2-4 years, Preoperational Symbolic Stage, children use symbols, stick figures
- 2. 4-7 years, Preoperational Intuitive Thought Stage, children are curious, primitive reason, "why?"
- 3. 7-11 years, Concrete Operational Stage, children think logically, limited to what they can physically manipulate
- 4. 11-16 years, Formal Operational Stage, children develops abstract thought, problem solve in multiple stages

GROWS in Reasoning, Abilities, Sensitivities



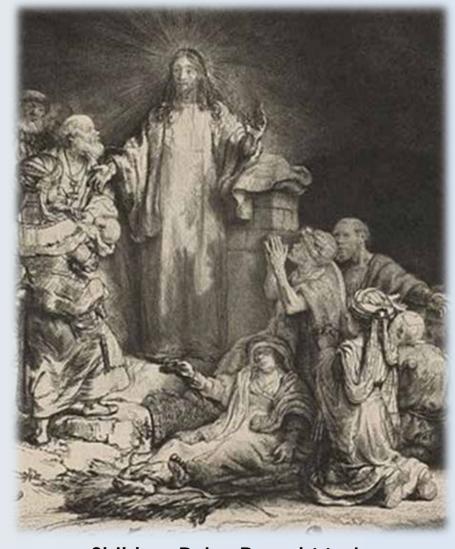
**Jean Piaget (1896-1980)** 

One thing NOT meant ...

Jesus did NOT mean

- ✓ Go BACKWARD in our reasoning
- ✓ Go BACKWARD in physical abilities
- ✓ Go BACKWARD in our sensitivities

  Jesus DID MEAN
  - ✓ Trust Him like a child trusts PARENT
  - ✓ Depend on Him like a SHEEP
  - ✓ Always Learn & Grow as a CHILD
  - ✓ Look to the Father as our WORLD to a child, Parent is WHOLE world



Children Being Brought to Jesus c. 1646-1650, by Rembrandt (1606-69)

#### 19:16-20 Standard Denied – Eternal Life >> Keep Commands

Come like Children ... CHILDREN

Mark 10:17 adds, "a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him."

16 Just then someone came—*ran*—up and asked Him, "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?"

Ahh ... have you NOT been listening?

17 "Why do you ask Me about what is good?" Jesus said to him. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Behave like a GOOD child!



GOOD child wants to sincerely please the Father

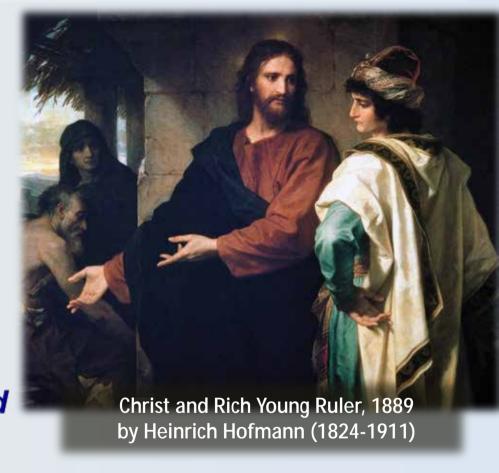
#### 19:16-20 Standard Denied – Eternal Life >> Keep Commands

Come like a Child ... a CHILD

Ahh ... you really have NOT heard yet?

18-19 "Which ones?" he asked Him.

Jesus answered,
Do not MURDER;
do not commit ADULTERY;
do not STEAL;
do not bear FALSE WITNESS;
HONOR your father and your mother; and
LOVE your neighbor as yourself.



<sup>20</sup> "I have kept all these," the young man told Him.

"What do I still lack?"

#### 19:21-22 Impossible to Keep – Sell All & Give to Poor

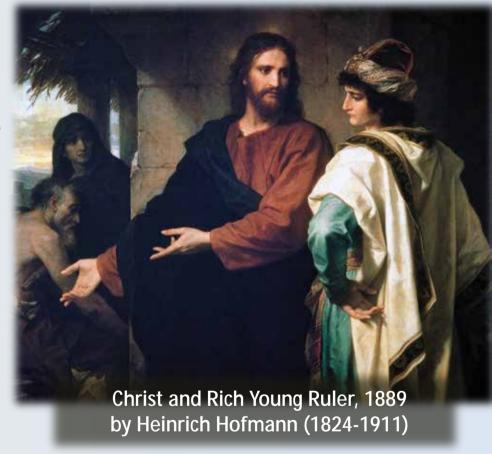
Jesus goes to the heart of the matter

<sup>21</sup> "If you want to be perfect," Jesus said to him, "go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."

Mark (10:21) adds, "Jesus looked at him and loved him."

Matthew tends to leave out emotion in Jesus

When the young man heard that command, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.



#### 19:23-26 Provision to Accept – Hard for Rich, With God Good

Then ... WHO is Rich?

That is EASY Peasy to answer

Haha ... really ... easy ...

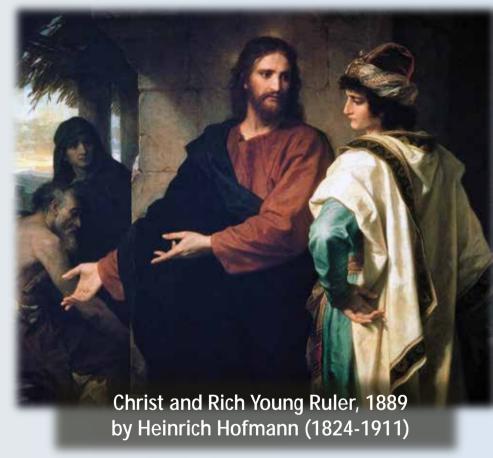
### Someone with a LOT more than ME is RICH to me

RICH - relative to the person's VIEW

Of course MONEY is not ALL ...

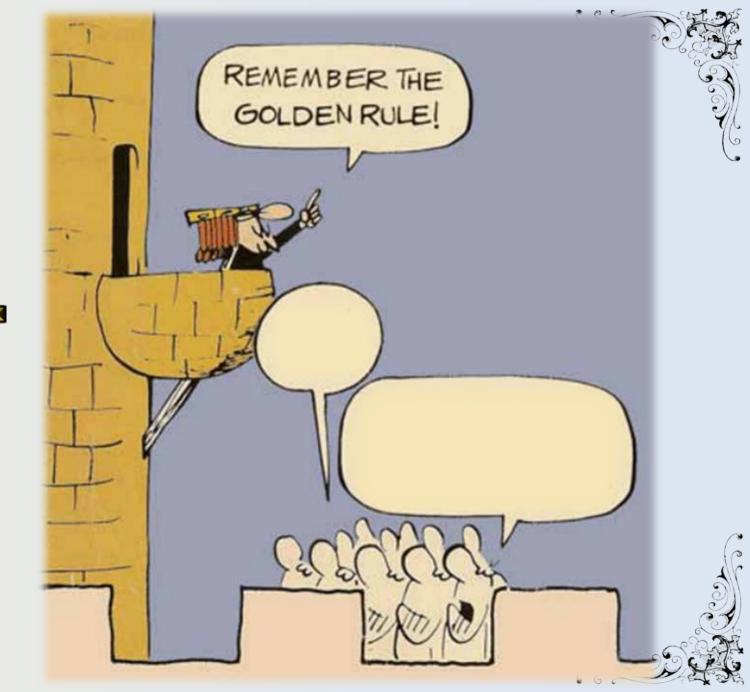
Still, MONEY means a LOT ...

That adage seen at the beginning has some inescapable sense ...





# Golden Rule



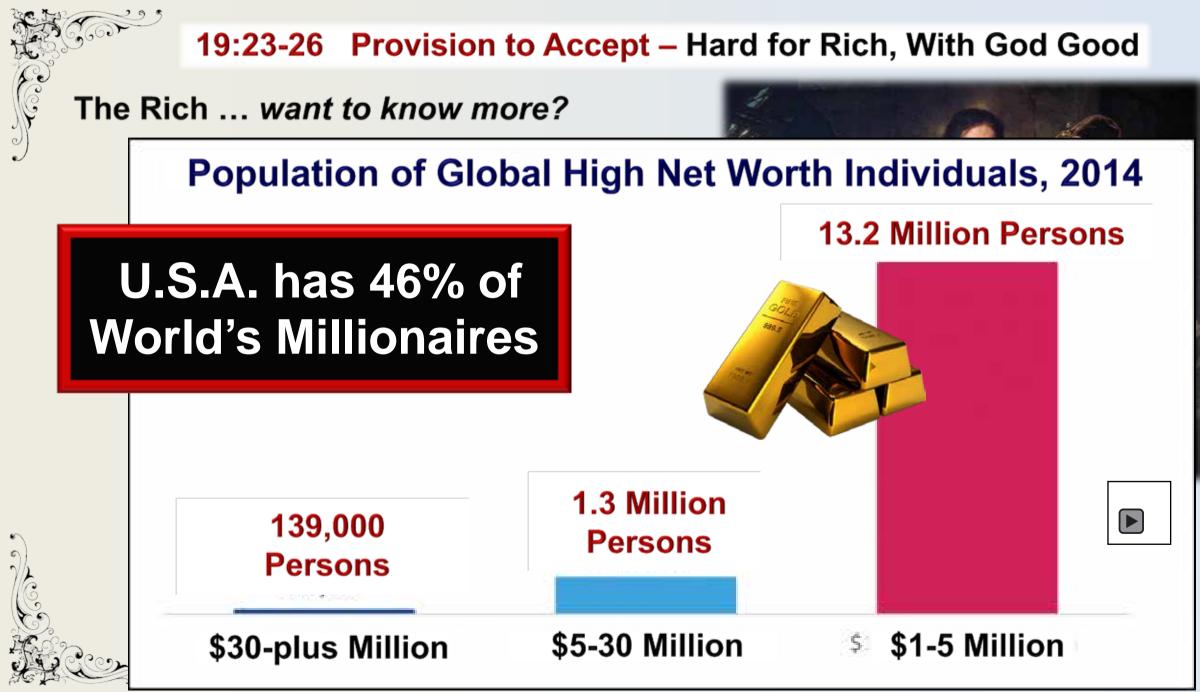
The rich ... hard to talk about the RICH
To a degree ... very, very relative
To many, MOST in the world, *I am rich*Given that, according to *Inequality.org*,
71% have LESS than \$10,000

those \$100,000+ net worth make up 8.1% or 8.1% own 84.6% of WORLD's wealth

U.S.A. has 46% of World's Millionaires

Then Jesus said to His disciples, by Heir "I assure you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven!" there is a poverty that is most PAINFUL





Then Jesus said something fearful

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "I assure you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven!"

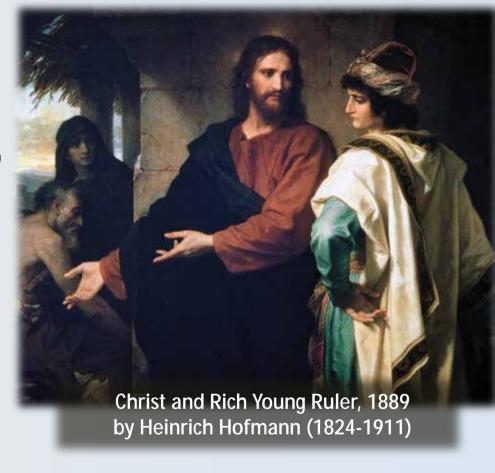
You see, those words ... likely ...

Are NOT fearful to the very rich ...

As in the A.D. 30 ... even MORE today!

This was a GOOD Rich Young Man!

Quite a lot has been written on this verse



KNOW that this world would be MUCH WORSE without a LOT of GOOD Rich Persons!

Theologian and Pastor

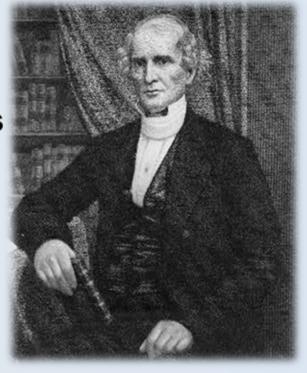
Dr. Rev. Albert Barnes (1798-1870)

Wrote a great, now classic set of Bible commentaries

Lastly he was pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia 1830–1868, 38 years

He noted several things about RICHES

- 1. Riches engross the affections (hold power)
- 2. People consider riches Chief Good
- 3. Riches often foster a pride
  - 4. Riches engross the time, fill the mind
  - 5. Riches often produce luxury, vice, avarice



**Albert Barnes (1798-1870)** 

Jesus goes further ... to drive the point

24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel
to go through the eye of a needle than
for a rich person to enter the kingdom of
God."

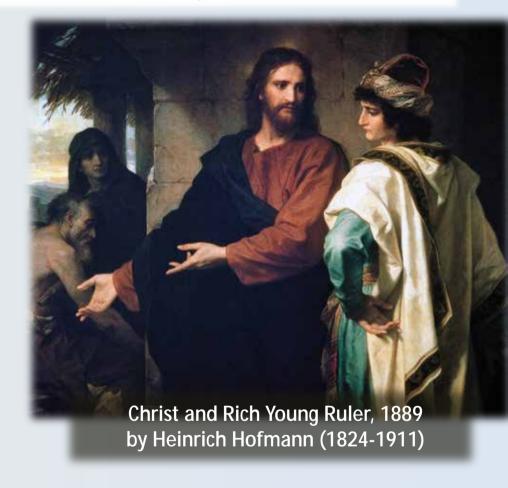
Old yarn of a SHORT gate that camels had to go through on the knees—bogus

Yet, the Greek words are NOT clear

"EYE" can mean a needle's EYE

Camel ... could mean "rope" or "cable"

Yet, phrase itself is a common proverb for both Jews & Arabs



Jesus says ...

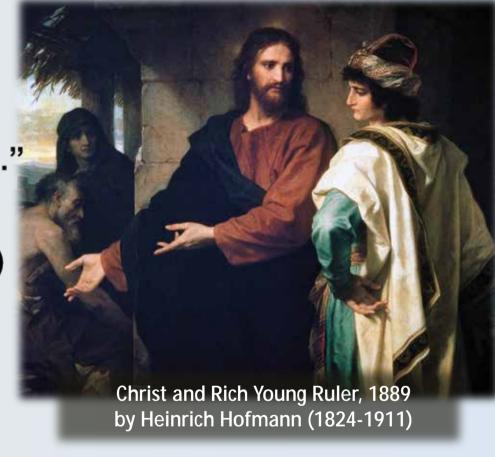
<sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."



Great Anglican Theologian
Charles John Ellicott (1819–1905)
once Bishop of the see of
Gloucester and Bristol

He noted that some Syrian cities had a narrow FOOT gate that people could walk through it, but no wagons or camels

called the "Needle's Eye"



easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle:

**IMPOSSIBLE** 

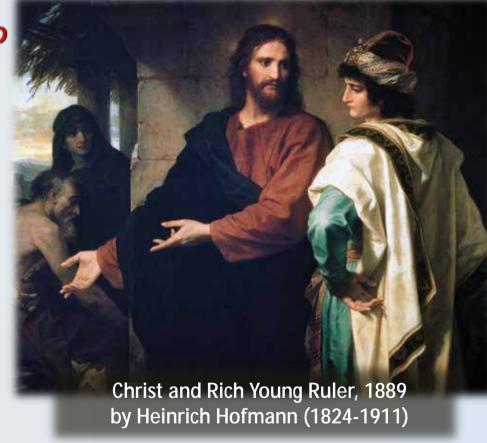
24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

Jews have a proverb mirroring this:

No man sees a palm tree of gold, nor an elephant passing through the eye of a needle. Because these are impossible things.

Camels were the largest animals in Israel

Africa and India had elephants



easier for a camel or elephant to go through the eye of a needle:

**IMPOSSIBLE** 

#### 19:23-26 Provision to Accept – Har

Alexander the Great extended his empire to India, fighting elephants in India

Strangely enough, there is NO record of elephants in Palestine in the O.T.

Or in archaeological records of the times in the O.T. .... but there was before N.T.

Antiochus Epiphanes (215-164 B.C.) used elephants in his war against the Jews, the first mention of them in Israel | Maccabees 1:16-17, 6:30

He was part of the Seleucid Kings after Alexander's death and dividing of empire



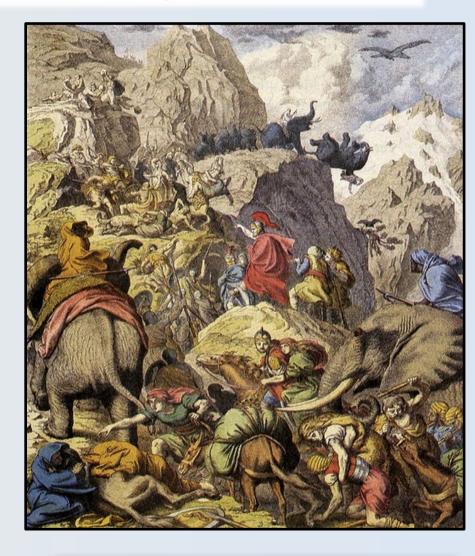
Alexander the Great extended his empire to India, fighting elephants in India

Elephants were HEARD of, certainly, as the Punic wars between Rome & Carthage lasted 78 years, 264-146 B.C.

Hannibal crossed the Alps in 218 B.C.

That is 200 years before Christ, Carthage fought Rome ... news of those exploits

Travelled through Israel, a major pathway between Europe, Egypt and Persia



**Hannibal Crossing Italian Alps** 

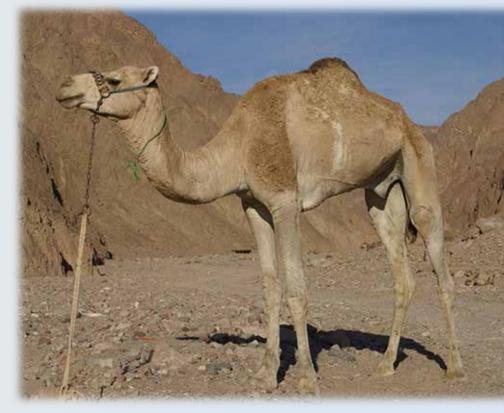
<sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

Camels are of two kinds

Dromedary Camel, or Arabian Camel with one hump

**Bactrian Camel**, two humps, of Asia

Adult Dromedary Camels can reach 6.6 feet at the shoulder & 1,100 lbs



**Dromedary Camel** 

Heart 11 lbs, double eye lashes, 15 days no water

In hottest weather, 5-7 days no water – renown in the desert



It is *IMPOSSIBLE* for a camel to go through the eye of a needle ...

### ANY NEEDLE

When the disciples heard this, they were utterly astonished and asked, "Then who can be saved?"

Ahhh ... they are seeing NOW

Just as they see the impossibility ...

Just as the disciples SEE the light ...

Jesus takes them ONE STEP further

Just as a child learns to stand ... then walk



Just as they see the impossibility ...

<sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Impossible for humankind ...

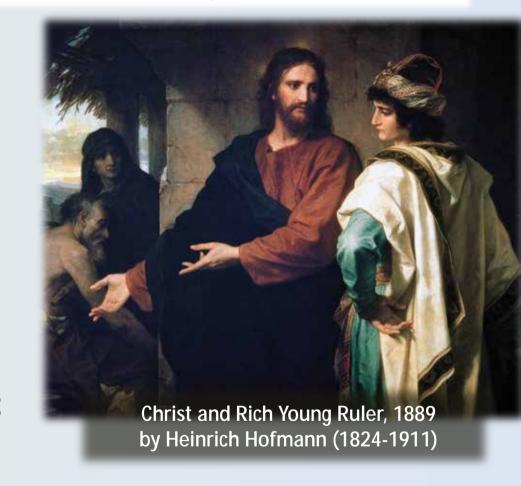
Impossible for ALL to be PERFECT

**But NOT for a perfect Savior** 

ONLY way to be saved is through Christ

ONLY way to GROW closer to God is through Christ

ONLY way to the Father is through Christ



James 1:9-10 ... is clearer, even blunt

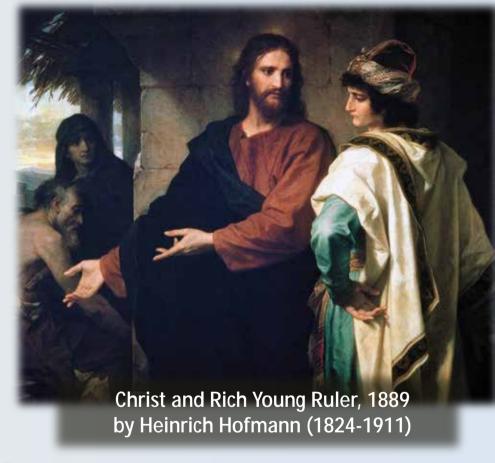
<sup>9</sup> Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.

10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

BOTH look to God ...

and need to look to God

19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said,



"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

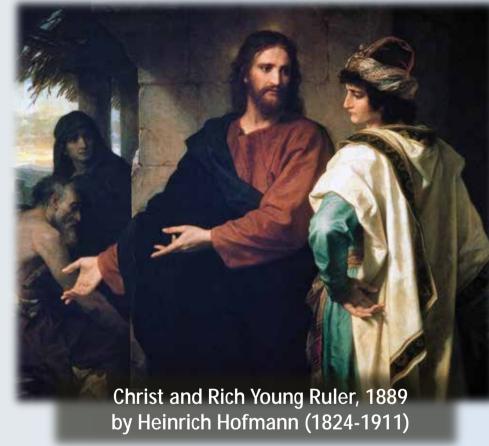
<sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

This world oppresses the poor ...

Wealth can often distracts the rich ...

John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! *I have overcome the world.*"

1 John 5:4, For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, EVEN OUR FAITH.



## wealth rules the world Yet ... if We Trust & Believe Christis Greater than our World

This World's NOT Our Home

