

## **Responding to God's Word: How to Faithfully Interpret the Bible**

Men's Bible Study at Park View

A comparison of three Gospel accounts

March 1, 2005

This lesson is designed to for two purposes: 1) to help us understand something about the way Jesus interacted with others, and 2) to help us understand something about the nature of the gospel accounts.

Read: Matthew 18:18-30, then compare it to Mark 10:17-27 and Luke 18:18-27. Then look for the answer to the following questions in each of the above passages. Look for similarities as well as differences in the three accounts.

1. How does the passage describe the man who came to Jesus?
2. What question did the man ask Jesus?
3. What did Jesus reply?
4. Which commandments did Jesus ask the man to keep?
5. How long did the man say he had kept the commandments?
6. How did Jesus *feel* about the man?
7. How did the man *feel* about Jesus' command?
8. How did the disciples feel about Jesus' saying about wealth and the kingdom?
9. What have you learned about the nature of the Gospels by this brief comparison of three accounts?
10. What have you learned about Jesus by studying the interaction with the man in the story?

## A COMPARISON OF THREE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

(Matthew 19:16-26 NIV) Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" {17} "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." {18} "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, {19} honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" {20} "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" {21} Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." {22} When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. {23} Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. {24} Again I tell you, 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." {25} When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" {26} Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

(Mark 10:17-27 NIV) 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?" {18} "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. {19} You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" {20} "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." {21} 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." {22} At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. {23} Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" {24} The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! {25} 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." {26} The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" {27} Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

(Luke 18:18-27 NIV) A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" {19} "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. {20} You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" {21} "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. {22} When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." {23} When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. {24} Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! {25} Indeed, 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." {26} Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" {27} Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."