

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The background shows a blue ocean with white-capped waves breaking onto a sandy beach. In the foreground, there are various coastal plants, including tall grasses and low-lying shrubs. A large white cross is superimposed on the left side of the image. The sky is light blue with a few birds flying. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

# Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>

**ENTERING  
THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD**

## *Matthew 19 (NIV)*

*16 Just then 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, keep the commandments.” 18 “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

## *Matthew 19 (NIV)*

*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, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

## *Matthew 19 (NIV)*

*24 “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich 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.”*

## Main Point

Entering the Kingdom of God requires surrendering to Him, placing faith in Jesus, and receiving His grace.



HOW CAN YOU  
*see the Kingdom of God?*

## How Can You See the Kingdom of God?

- The young man's question highlights a common misconception that eternal life can be earned through good deeds
- Jesus emphasizes obedience to God's law as a foundational requirement for entering the Kingdom
- However, when the man claims he has kept all the commandments, Jesus exposes a deeper issue: his attachment to wealth



## How Can You See the Kingdom of God?

- Jesus' call to the young man to sell all his possessions & follow Him demonstrates that entrance into God's Kingdom requires total surrender & devotion to Christ, above all earthly treasures

*23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23 NIV)*

## How Can You See the Kingdom of God?

- Wealth can be a barrier when it becomes an idol
- Jesus' teaching shows that salvation is impossible for man alone, but with God, all things are possible
- The Kingdom of God is about humility & reliance on God, as shown in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), where the "poor in spirit" inherit the Kingdom

## How Can You See the Kingdom of God?

- True righteousness comes from faith in Jesus, not merely external obedience to the law

*21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, (Romans 3:21-22 NIV)*

## How Can You See the Kingdom of God?

- Entrance into the Kingdom requires childlike faith and dependence on God

*3 And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3 NIV)*

A wooden door with a bright light shining through a crack, with the text "HEAVENLY REWARDS" overlaid in a serif font. The door has a decorative, carved pattern. The text is in a dark red or maroon color. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a bright light source behind the door. The entire image is framed by a purple border.

HEAVENLY  
REWARDS

## Heavenly Rewards

- Peter asks Jesus what rewards await those who have left everything to follow Him, showing a natural human concern about sacrifice and reward
- Jesus assures Peter & the apostles that they will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel in the new world
- This reward points to the apostles' special role in the establishment of God's Kingdom, showing that faithfulness in following Christ will not go unnoticed

## Heavenly Rewards

- Their position of judgment reflects their leadership in the early church, where they devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship & prayer

*21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

*(Revelation 3:21 NIV)*



## Heavenly Rewards

- Jesus also teaches that leadership in His Kingdom is marked by service & humility which the apostles exemplified in their ministries

*26 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26-28 NIV)*

## Heavenly Rewards

- The apostles' rewards emphasize the importance of obedience & sacrifice in the present life for the sake of the Kingdom
- The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) reinforces this principle: faithful servants will be entrusted with greater responsibilities in God's Kingdom

## Heavenly Rewards

- Jesus' promise to the apostles foreshadows the eternal rewards awaiting all believers who faithfully endure trials & serve the Lord
- The apostles' reward is a
  - Fulfillment of their earthly calling
  - Picture of the rewards that await all who sacrifice for Christ's sake

## Heavenly Rewards

- Jesus extends the promise of rewards to all believers in saying that anyone who has left houses, family, or possessions for His sake will receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life
- This highlights the cost of discipleship but also the far greater reward—eternal life with God

## Heavenly Rewards

- The concept of rewards in heaven is expanded in Matthew 6, where believers are urged to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth

*19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

*(Matthew 6:19-21 NIV)*

## Heavenly Rewards

- Paul speaks of a "crown of righteousness" awaiting those who long for Christ's return (2 Timothy 4:8), showing that our ultimate reward is eternal fellowship with Christ
- The promise of rewards for believers is not based on works but on God's grace & our faithful response to Him  
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

## Heavenly Rewards

*8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—  
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not  
by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's  
handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*(Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV)*



## Heavenly Rewards

- Jesus reassures His followers that even the smallest acts of kindness, such as giving a cup of cold water, will not go unrewarded

*42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”*

*(Matthew 10:42 NIV)*

## Heavenly Rewards

- In 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, Paul describes how believers' works will be tested by fire, and those that endure will be rewarded
- The believers' rewards reflect their faithfulness, love & service to God, which culminate in eternal life with Him

## Heavenly Rewards

- Jesus reminds us that the last will be first and the first will be last (Matthew 19:30), emphasizing the upside-down nature of God's Kingdom, where humility & sacrifice lead to eternal reward
- The eternal rewards for believers encourage us to persevere in faith, knowing that God will honor every sacrifice made for His glory

# Jesus the Ultimate Judge



## Jesus the Ultimate Judge

- Jesus speaks about the difficulty for the wealthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, which points to the ultimate reality of judgment
- The Bible teaches that all people will stand before the judgment seat of Christ where their lives will be evaluated

*10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV)*

## Jesus the Ultimate Judge

- Matthew 25:31-46 describes the final judgment, where Jesus separates the righteous from the unrighteous based on their actions toward others, especially the least of these
- This passage shows that judgment is not just about belief but also about how that belief is lived out in love and service to others

## Jesus the Ultimate Judge

- Jesus emphasizes that those who reject Him or trust in their wealth will face God's judgment, as seen in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
- Judgment is both a warning & a call to repentance

*9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)*



## Jesus the Ultimate Judge

- For believers, judgment is not about condemnation but about receiving rewards for faithful service

*12 “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” (Revelation 22:12 NIV)*

- The judgment also reveals God's perfect justice, as He will reward the righteous & punish the wicked, ensuring that no sin goes unaccounted for

## Jesus the Ultimate Judge

- Jesus' teachings on judgment encourage us to live with eternity in mind, making choices that honor God & reflect His love
- Ultimately, judgment reveals the character of God as both just & merciful, calling us to live in faith & obedience to Him

## Practical Applications

- Surrender to God Daily - Reflect on your personal relationship with God and surrender any attachments to worldly things, such as anxieties about the future or regrets about the past, trusting God to provide
- Live Generously - Although many seniors may no longer have wealth or possessions to give, they can live generously by sharing their time, wisdom, and encouragement with others in the facility, embodying Christ's call to selflessness

## Practical Applications

- Foster Community through Service - Find small ways to serve others, such as offering a kind word, praying for someone, or helping a fellow resident with simple tasks
- Focus on Relationships Over Possessions - Many seniors have experienced the loss of possessions, status, or even loved ones. This is an opportunity to focus on relationships with others & God, placing value on what is eternal

## Practical Applications

- Share Faith Stories - This practice not only strengthens personal faith but also blesses others with encouragement and hope
- Prepare for Eternity - Seniors can take comfort in knowing that their faithfulness & service, even in small ways, are recognized by God

## Discussion Questions

- How can we cultivate a heart that is fully surrendered to God and not tied to earthly possessions?
- How does Jesus' promise to the apostles about their future roles encourage us in our own service to the Kingdom?
- What are some ways we can follow the apostles' example of faithfulness and service today?

## Discussion Questions

- How can the promise of eternal rewards motivate us to live faithfully for Christ today?
- In what ways does our understanding of rewards in heaven shape our priorities & actions on earth?
- How does the reality of God's judgment influence the way we live our lives today?



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