

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“With people this is impossible but with God all things are possible.” –Matthew 19:26

It was quite an experience. We had planned the trip to Egypt for a long time, but because my mother had cancer, we were not sure if it would happen. But it did! We were now in front of the pyramids. My mom and I headed for the camels, and we sat on them as they were kneeling. But when the camel stood up . . . well, I was sitting much higher than I had expected; it was a bit scary. I had never realized how big these animals really are until I got to ride one.

Jesus used these animals, the largest in Palestine, to explain how we are saved. He spoke first of the difficulty, then of the impossibility, of a wealthy person gaining entrance into the kingdom. “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” (Matthew 19:24). Jesus was using hyperbole, an exaggerated figure of speech. Some have attempted to minimize this teaching by interpreting the eye of a needle as a small gate, but there is no indication of such meaning at the time, and this suggestion undermines the context of the verse. Jesus addressed the danger of not being aware of our great need. In the Jewish culture, rich people were considered most blessed by God, because they had abundant provision, and could give alms to the poor and devote more time to the study of the Scriptures. The disciples were completely shocked; if it was impossible for such a blessed person to merit the kingdom, who then could be saved? Jesus was teaching that we are not saved by what we have, or by who we are in society. Salvation is His doing, not ours. The rich, the smart, the strong, none of them can earn heaven; the “blessed ones” should be vigilant, not letting their abundance keep them out of the kingdom. For every single human being, no matter the status, salvation is impossible; but for God *all things* are possible.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins! Daily Devotional*, p. 237