*.“To Have Eternal Life”*

DISCOVERING KING JESUS, Pt. #99

Matthew 19:16-26

**BIG IDEA:** Before you can gain eternal life, you must lose all hope in yourself.

*\*5 answers that lead to life:*

1. What good deed must I do to have eternal life?
2. **Christ’s first answer is lacerating; He cuts to the heart of the issue and corrects the folly:** You can do no good deeds because you are not good. “There is only one who is good.” (V.16-17a)
3. **Christ’s second answer is legal; He exposes the folly by playing along:** If you think you’re good and insist on *earning* life, there’s only one way— “keep the commandments.” (V.17b)
4. Which ones?— which commandments must I keep?
5. **Christ’s third answer is a lifeline; He offers an opportunity for humility:** Let’s just start with the ones we can see— with the second table of the Law, summarized as the second greatest commandment. (V.18,19)
6. I’ve done this; what do I still lack?
7. **Christ’s fourth answer is loving; He finally forces this man to face the truth of his situation:** He’s not even able to keep the first commandment. And to fail at one point is to fail at all points. (V.20-22)
8. Who then can be saved?
9. **Christ’s fifth answer is liberating; Having removed all hope in ourselves, He reminds us of our only hope:** “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” In other words, don’t ask what *you* can do; instead, ask God to have mercy on you and do what only *He* can do. (V.23-26)