Ps 10:17 - O LORD, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble; Thou wilt strengthen their heart, Thou wilt incline Thine ear.

Ps 25:9 - He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way.

Ps 37:11 - But the humble will inherit the land, and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

Ps 76:9 - When God arose to judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah.

Prov 29:23 - A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

James 4:6-10 - But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

1 Pet 5:5-6 - You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

I. Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are those who sense spiritual poverty for the kingdom of God is theirs." Berean Translation.

- "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. (Message)

- Recently went through a season.

- Revelation 3:14-18 - can't separate Lukewarm from being rich.

A. Poverty is what gets you into the kingdom, not riches. Lack and insufficiency is what unlocks the door.

B. It's what you can't do and not what you can do that qualifies you for a candidate for the kingdom of God.

1. This is so contrary to the way we were taught to receive.

   a. All you life you are rewarded according to your perform

   b. You get grades according to your study.

   c. You get commendations according to your success.

   d. You get money in response to your work.

2. Matthew 5:3 - This first beatitude is the key that unlocks the riches of heaven.
a. God's kingdom is given to the impoverished not the affluent.

b. **God's delight is received upon surrender, not awarded upon conquest.**

Your qualified for the Kingdom when you plea for Help.

**Your qualified for the Kingdom when you run out of options.**

Your qualified for the Kingdom when you stop demanding justice and start pleading for mercy.

**Your qualified for the Kingdom when you stop bragging and start begging.**

Your qualification for the Kingdom is born in the parched soil of destitution rather than the fertile ground of achievement.

II. In the New Testament the Lord Jesus had an encounter with two rich young rulers. One was too rich to receive, the other became poor enough to receive.


1. For one so used to having all the answers, calling on a Carpenter's son for help must have been awkward.

2. The Question - **Verse 16** - "What good thing must I do to get eternal life."

a. The wording of his question betrays his misunderstanding

b. He thinks He can get eternal life like He gets everything else.

   1) **By his strength.**
   2) By his intelligence.
   3) **By his talents.**
   4) By his sufficiency.

3. The Answer - **Verse 17** - "Keep the Commandments." He Responds, "Which Ones."

a. Jesus indulges him and gives him a list, which he proceeds to check off.

b. **Most of us like lists, we have a list that we check to prove that we are good.**

   - I obey the laws of the land (except for the ones that deal with traffic).
   - **I'm hard working.**
   - I help people when they are in need.
   - **I pay my bills on time.**
   - I go to church
   - **I pay my tithes**
   - I love my spouse and kids
   - **I'm basically good.**
   - Keeping a list lulls us into luke warmness

c. The problem with list is that no matter how good you are it's not good enough.
B. What Jesus is trying to communicate here is: What you want, costs more than you can pay.

1. You don't need a system, you need a Savior.
2. You don't need a resume, you need a Redeemer.
3. The thrust of this verse is "You can't save yourself."
4. It wasn't money that hindered this rich young man, it was self-sufficiency. It wasn't big bucks but a big head.
5. Self-sufficiency in any area of your life will hinder you from the riches of the kingdom.
   - You don’t need me as much (Story)
   - When were broken we come to God to fix us
   - But, what happens after we are fixed?
   - Our motivation must now come from helping to fix other
   - Prov 18:23 - The poor man utters supplications, but the rich man answers roughly.
   - James 1:2 - “count it all joy” now I complain.
   - Prov 27:7 - “famished man any bitter thing is sweet.”

C. Matthew 7:21-23 - Gives us a picture of on judgement day who feel like that have earned a place in the kingdom.

1. These people are standing before God bragging about themselves.
   a. The trumpet has sounded and their tooting their own horns.
   b. Rather than singing His praises, their singing their own.
   c. Rather than worshiping God they are reading their resumes

2. The only thing worse than their arrogance is their blind
   a. You can't impress NASA with a paper plane.
   b. You don't boast of water paintings in the presence of Picasso
   c. You don't claim equality with Einstein because you write
   d. And you don't boast about your goodness in the presence of the Perfect.

III I want to tell you of another rich young ruler who encounter Christ and became poor enough to receive His Kingdom.

A. Before his encounter with Christ, Paul had been somewhat of a hero among the Pharisees. Philippians 3:4-6

1. He was quickly establishing himself as the heir apparent to his teacher, Gamaliel.

2. If there is such a thing as a religious fortune, Paul had it. He was a spiritual billionaire, born with one foot in heaven, and he knew it.
B. At the zenith of his selfrighteousness he encountered Christ. Acts 9:1-18

1. The pursuer became the pursued.

2. The one who dispensed hate now received love.

3. When he realized who knocked him off his horse he expected the worse. But all he got was silence and the first of lifetime of surprises.

4. Paul was a step ahead of the rich young ruler. He knew better that to try and strike a deal with God. He didn't make any excuses; he just pleaded for mercy.
   a. Alone in the room with his sins on his conscience and blood on his hands, he asked to be cleansed.
   b. The legalist Saul was buried, the liberator Paul was born.
   c. He was never the same afterwards and neither was the world.
   d. Jesus should have sent him to hell but he didn't he sent him to the lost.

Two rich young men. The first is never mentioned by name.

The second had his name changed from Saul to Paul.
- The one made a name for himself is nameless.
- But the one who called on Jesus' name, got a new name.
- But better than that he got a new life.

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR:

As long as Jesus is one of many options, he is no option.

As long as you carry your burdens alone, you don't need a burden bearer.

As long as your situation brings you no grief, you will receive no comfort.

And as long as you can take Him or leave Him, you might as well leave Him, because He won't be taken half-heartedly.

But if you get need to meet provider, weakness to meet strength, helplessness to meet power, and sin to meet Savior,

the result just might be another Pharisee turned preacher who sets the world on fire.