



Grace Assembly Of God

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Matthew 19	Title:	The Idol of Riches
Author	Ps Benjamin Wong		
Summary of Chapter	Jesus had three encounters. First was the Pharisees who were trying to trap Jesus by asking him questions about the law of divorce. Second was Jesus teaching that God's Kingdom belongs to those who are like children. Lastly, Jesus exposed the idol of riches in a rich man's heart as the obstacle of receiving eternal life.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<i>24 I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!</i>	<p>God is not against us being rich. The amount of money you have is not the issue but the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:10 tell us that the love of money is the root of all evil. We may say we're not greedy for money", but sometimes we rely more on our savings than on God. This is even more so in this uncertain time due to the pandemic. Sometimes we are often preoccupied with getting the next "better things" to add to our earthly possessions. Jesus said" where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). We must ask ourselves whether the love of money is the idol on the throne of our hearts that have become more important than God. That is why Jesus said, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" to illustrate the seductive power of chasing after wealth rather than God.</p> <p>Some years ago, God impressed upon my wife Tricia and I to give an amount out of our savings as a faith pledge for missions. We struggled to obey. Firstly, it was not a small amount. Secondly this savings took us quite a while to build up and it was for Tricia to pursue her further studies. It is not easy to give up this money as it involves giving up a better future. God exposed the idol of money in our hearts. We realized we need to give up this idol and learn to put Him back where He belongs. So, we did, choosing to trust Him for our needs and future. The story didn't end there. God showed Himself faithful to those who put Him first in our hearts. In His miraculous ways, He has always provided for our needs until now.</p>

### APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	What is your mind and heart constantly pre-occupied with? How do you ensure that the pursuit of wealth or material goods does not take first place in your heart?
Youth:	What do you spend most of your money on? Do you give to God? What does it reveal about our priorities in life?
Child:	What is something that you hope your parents will buy for you if money is not the problem? Are you willing to give this gift to God after you receive it?

### PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for the material blessings you have given me to enjoy here in Singapore. Help me not to make these earthly possessions the idol of my heart. Let my heart be always given to you and to pursue you as my first love.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.