



HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN?

Slide 1

Today we are going to meet **Slide 2** a young man who comes to Jesus with a very important question. He wants to know **Slide 3** how to deserve a place in heaven. It's rather interesting, isn't it? He thinks **Slide 4** he's doing everything right but let's see what Jesus replies to him. You will find this account **Slide 5** in chapter 10 of the Gospel of Mark. Ah! The question of the day! **Slide 6** Why was the young man so sad when he left?

Slide 7 A RICH YOUNG MAN

Slide 8 Jesus and his disciples are on their way to another village. They have hardly taken a few steps **Slide 9** that a young man comes running. As soon as he is near Jesus, he kneels before Him.

He has a question that has been bothering him for a long time. **Slide 10** Where will he go when he dies? **Slide 11** HE often thinks of heaven and hell, and of course he wouldn't like to go to hell but **Slide 12** he is not sure to go to heaven. He asks Jesus:

Slide 13 - Good master, what should I do to earn eternal life, to deserve to go to heaven?

- If you want to have eternal life, **Slide 14** practice the commandments of God.

Slide 15 - And, what commandments?

Slide 16 - You know them! For example: do not commit murder, don't steal, don't tell lies when speaking about others, do no harm to anyone, respect your father and your mother and to love your neighbour as much as yourself.

Slide 17 Well, the young man is rather reassured.

Slide 18 - Only this! But, that's what I've been striving to do ever since I was small. What do I still miss?

Slide 19 Jesus looks at him with great affection because He sees that this young man really wants to obey the commandments of God, to do what is right but there is something that completely escapes him. Jesus will reveal to him what is in his heart and prevents him from going to heaven.

- You see, young man, **Slide 20** there is something missing. Go! Sell what you own and give

the money to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven And then come back and follow me.

Slide 21 The young man becomes very sad. **Slide 22** He thinks about his luxurious house, its fields covered with olive trees, his vines, and his jewels, his money too. He shakes the head.

Slide 23 - But! It is not possible! I will never have the courage to leave it all; I care too much for that!

He understands that what fills his heart is his love of his riches. He loves them more than anything, more than God and more than other people. **Slide 24** He stands up slowly, turns his back and goes away with a heavy heart. **Slide 25** Seeing him go away, Jesus says to his disciples:

- Really, I assure you, **Slide 26** a rich person will have a lot of difficulty to enter the kingdom of heaven. It's even more difficult for him than for a camel to go through a city gate.

Slide 27 The disciples are very surprised because they believed that for rich people everything was easy. **Slide 28** If they are rich, they thought, it is because they are blessed by God. **Slide 29** They question Jesus.

- If the rich cannot be saved, then who will be who will **Slide 30** enter heaven?

- It is impossible for men, but what men cannot do on their own, **Slide 31** God can do it.

Slide 32 He can change the hearts of those who are attached to their wealth and save them.

Slide 33 The disciples ponder these words.

Suddenly, Peter says:

Slide 34 - And us, Lord! You know we have left everything to follow you? What will happen to us?

Slide 35 - It's true, you left everything to follow me but I promise you that you **Slide 36** will not lack anything on earth, and one day **Slide 37** you will be with me in heaven.

Slide 38 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*Back to our question. **Slide 39** Why this young man left all sad. Well, because he understood that **Slide 40** God was not in the first place in his life. He loved his wealth more than anything. He left all sad; but, in your opinion, **Slide 41** what else could he have done? He could have said to Jesus, **Slide 42** "You know my heart, my thoughts, You know I can't*

do what You tell me, **Slide 43** I don't have the strength, **Slide 44** I love my riches too much; so please **Slide 45** help me change my heart so that god may have the first place”, and Jesus would have done it.

Indeed, **Slide 46** Jesus did not condemn him. He didn't say: “Oh! It's over for you, you see how you are, you will not go to heaven, you do not deserve it”. But, with great affection, he showed him his selfishness, and his **Slide 47** need to be forgiven by God to go to heaven.

I will add one last little word. When you're rich, **Slide 48** do you think you have **Slide 49** to sell everything you have to go to heaven? No, **Slide 50** we need money to live, but in this story, Jesus warns us that money **Slide 51** can get so important it can quickly **Slide 52** take the first place in our heart. It is what we call an idol. Not money only can be an idol, there are loads of other things. The problem of idols, it is that they take **Slide 53** the place of God in our heart, our life.

Slide 54 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

In our last talk, we saw that the Kingdom of God belongs to children and those who are like them, who are unpretentious, who do not need to understand everything, who are in a state of simplicity and confidence.

Slide 55 Today, in the story of the rich young man, we find out how much adults can find it difficult to enter the Kingdom of God. They want to do something, act to deserve, earn heaven. But it's an illusion, it's forgetting the state of our own heart that is unable to respond to God's will. **Slide 56** Eternal life cannot be earned, it cannot be cannot be gained, **Slide 57** it is a gift, a gift to be received.

As for riches, do the words of Jesus mean that believers should sell everything they own? No, of course! **Slide 58** We have to think about our needs, about those of our family and the needs of others. But Jesus warns us that they can quickly become idols and gradually lead us to forget the love of God. There are all kinds of riches, idols. We can meditate on it all and have **Slide 59** an exchange on this subject with our children.

Slide 60