

impossible. A millionaire must come as a helpless sinner, or not at all. The explanation of the proverb, that the "needle's eye" is the name of the smaller gate in the larger one, through which one person only can pass at a time, and a camel only with great difficulty, lacks confirmation. It has not been shewn that the small gate bore this name in our Saviour's time, or that natives would, at the present day, ever connect with its name the idea of a needle's eye. Others read "cable" instead of "camel" but this reading is not sustained by any manuscript of importance.

26. Who then can be saved?—"If the standard for entrance is so high, who can come up to it?"

27. With God all things are possible—"This is the same as saying, 'all things are

possible to him that believeth.' This, which it is impossible for man to accomplish in his own strength, namely, such a making himself poor in spirit, such a loosening of himself from the bands which bind him so fast to the world and to the creature, shall yet be possible for him in the strength of God. The impossible thing, which is yet possible with God, is not the saving of the rich man, but the making of the rich man poor, one of God's poor, and so an inheritor of his kingdom." (Trench.) Christ answers, in effect, "No one by his own efforts, but every one by God's grace." He can take away the love of riches or anything else that stands between our hearts and complete devotion to himself. (Deut. 30: 6; 1 Kings 8: 58; Ps. 110: 3; Prov. 16: 1; Jer. 24: 5; 32: 38-40; Ezek. 11: 19, 20; 2 Cor. 4: 6; 7: 5; Col. 1: 12, 13.)

LESSONS.

1. We should earnestly seek eternal life.
2. No one can obtain it by perfect obedience.
3. Jesus loves the earnest seeker.
4. The one thing that we are unwilling to give up, is the thing that we *must* give up.
5. We may love riches too much without being very rich.
6. God's grace, and that alone, can save, and keep, rich and poor.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

In reviewing this lesson we would fix attention upon the need of completeness and concentration, making the words **One Thing** our key-note.

This young man was rich and respected. He stood high in the estimation of the church and of society. He wanted to serve God aright, and be all that the Searcher of hearts desired. He was very near the kingdom of God, and wanted to feel himself quite sure of eternal life. No wonder Jesus loved him. He was sincere, earnest, anxious for salvation. Just **one thing** shut heaven and God's smile out of his heart. Show what that was. What may keep Jesus out of our hearts:—Love of pleasure, fear of ridicule, unable to say "no," secret sin, "putting off," etc.

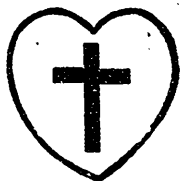
Illustrate the **one thing** chosen by Mary (Luke 10: 42). A heart wholly given to Christ. And the **one thing** pursued by Paul (Phil. 3: 13). Urge to immediate, hearty, entire, and persevering discipleship. Write the name of "Jesus" on your heart, never to be erased.

ONE THING

LACKING
CHOSEN
PURSUED

WHAT CHRIST

SEEKS



BOUGHT

I WILL GIVE