

Rich Man's Passage: Via a Camel Gate or a Needle's Eye?

The Syriac Peshitta Text

The Syriac Peshitta text was written in Aramaic which was the commonly spoken text in the time of Jesus. This version was taken by disciples like Thomas and others to the east and became the Bible of the Eastern church. George Lamsa translated it into English in 1933 and this Bible is still available today. Noteworthy is that the word *gamla* translates as rope in the Peshitta. The KJV authors translated a similar phrase to *gamla* as camel which makes no sense in relationship to a needle.

Matthew 19:24 Again I say to you, it is easier for **a rope to go through the eye of a needle** than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

The Eye of The Needle

Gifts of Pentecost

"I remember when I was young and I stood among the sons of men strong and tall and my heart was filled with enthusiasm and my life was given to the purposes of my God. And upon that day I said unto the Lord, I will do mighty exploits in the name of my God. And the Lord came unto me and said, "What is it, son of man that thou wouldst have?" And I said, **"Lord, if I could only be among those who play sweetly upon an instrument and who sing well in the house of the Lord, then I would I do great things for my God."** And the Lord came unto me and He gave unto me the desire of my heart. And He stood me among the sons of men and He let me play and He let me sing. And I saw the day when the hearts of men were moved by that thing which the Lord had given unto me. And as the hearts of men were moved, I stood back and I said within myself - now will I be content for I have been able to move the hearts of men.

But in my secret hour I bowed my head before my Lord, and I said, "Lord, Thou hast given that which I asked for, but tonight my heart is heavy and I have a longing for something more." And He came again unto to me in the night season and He said "Son of man, ask me again the thing that thou wouldst have of me." And I said, "Lord, I see men bowed by burdens low, I see hearts that are broken - I see sadness and discouragement - **Oh, give me but the power of the spoken word that I might speak a word and hearts would be delivered.**" And the word of the Lord came unto me and He said, "Son of Man, I have given thee the thing that thou hast desired." And with great joy I marched before the people of God. And in my youth and my enthusiasm, I spoke the word and they were delivered.

And I spoke the word and their hearts were made whole. And I knew it was to bind the broken hearted - to pour in the oil of joy for mourning. And while men were praising him and magnifying His Name, I went back to my secret chamber and bowed my head in sorrow, and I said, "Oh my God, my God!, I am not satisfied, I am not satisfied, I am not satisfied, I am not satisfied." And He came again unto me and He said, "Son of man what is it thou dost again desire?" And I said, " Oh my God, give but power in my hands - to God, it is due - **that I might lay my hands upon the sick and that I might see healing flow - that I might have power.**" And He said, "It is done as thou as commanded, go and heal the sick in my name." And I went to the nations of the earth, and I saw the sick raised from their sick bed. And I saw pain and suffering go. And I was rejoicing as I went to my place, and I bowed my head before my God and I said, "Now shall I be satisfied, for thou hast given me that which I have desired." But no longer than the words had come to my mouth - then my heart began to ache and cry and I said, "God, I can not understand this, for again my heart is sad."

And I said, "Lord wilt thou just one more time give me the thing I ask of thee?" And He said, "It is done." And I said, "**Lord, I desire to go against principalities and powers, and the powers of the wickedness of this world in spiritual darkness in high places.**" And He said, "Surely, I give it unto thee, now go." 12 - 11 And I went and the Lord allowed me to go into dens of iniquity and holes and dives where men hide from the light because of the sin and evil that is upon them. And there was a day when I saw demons cry out at the very presence of the power of God that rested.

And then I went back to my place broken and I said, "God, I have asked thee for all that I desire and still my heart is not satisfied, nor do I feel that I have touched the thing that Thou hast called me to - and in my youth I have expended myself with all the things that my heart has desired." And then one more time the Lord visited me in the night season and He said, "Now, what is it thou dost desire?" And in brokenness of heart I bowed before Him and I said, "**God, only that thing which thou desirest to give unto me.**" And He came unto me and He said, "Come with me and I will take thee on a journey." And He took me past my friends and He took me past those with whom I had contact into the house of the Lord. And He took me into a desolate place and he caused me to go to a place alone in the wilderness.

And I said, "**Oh, my God, now thou has cut me off from those I love. What art thou doing unto me?**" And He said, "I take thee to the place that all men must come to - if their heart's cry is to be fulfilled." And on a certain **hour I bowed before a gate that is called the eye of the needle.** And there, before the eye of the needle, I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Bow low." And I bowed low. And He said, "No, lower." And I bowed lower. And He said, "No, yet lower, thou does not go low enough." **And I went as low as I could go."**

But I had upon my back my books of learning. And I had with me my instruments of music, and I had with me my gifts and abilities. And He said unto me, "Thou has too much, thou canst not go through this gate." And I said to him, "God, thou hast given me these books, and thou hast given these abilities." And He said, "**Drop them, or thou dost not go.**" And I dropped them. And I went through **a very small gate that is called the eye of the needle.**

And as I went through this gate, I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Now, rise to the other side." And as I rose, a very strange thing had happened to me. **For Lo, the gate that was so small that I must lay aside everything was so wide that I could not fill it!** And as I stood in the presence of the Lord, I said, "God, what is this thing that thou hast done unto me - for my soul is now satisfied. And He said, "Thou hast come through the gate of worship - thou hast come through the gate of worship. Now come up to the circle of the earth and I will show thee a great mystery. And I will reveal unto thee the thing which I am doing among the sons of men.

And I saw a strange thing. I saw my companions gathered around a very small gate. And I saw them wringing their hands and crying and saying one to another, "God has given us these instruments of war. This sword is my sword! I will take with me my sword and I will work with the enemy and I will bring the enemy up. I can not go through this gate - for if I go through this gate, I must put down my sword. **I must put down my instruments of war - God wants me to be a warrior in Israel - therefore will I not do it!**" And I heard another one say, "**Me, lay down my instruments of music? Lay down all that God has given to me to go through that silly little gate?** To be nothing other than a bare man who comes out the other side - stripped of everything? I can not do this thing. " And I saw that they stood aside in their pride - afraid to bow themselves before a very small gate. And then I saw again, as the Lord brought me closer to the gate, and I saw men bow low - laying down everything they had. And as they came through the very wide gate on the other side - their instruments of music were there, their swords were there, their books were there, the power was there.

And the word of the Lord came unto me, "Go now and tell this people this thing. I have given unto this people extreme talent and much ability. I have caused you who are instrumentalists to play, but I say unto this night - if you do not come through the very small gate which is the gate of worship and bow low and lay before me thine instruments, and thy talents, and thy abilities, and thy vision, and thy power - thou shall always be those who will only be able to minister to the hearts of men and bless the hearts of men. But there is a gate open in the church in this hour which a very small gate **and through that gate only men who are worshippers will go. And these men will fall on their face before me and these men will lay their talents before their God.** And these men will say, "**God, we will be worshippers.**" And through that wide gate they will come. And as they come through that wide gate and hear the word of the Lord - they will arise on the other side - not to minister unto men but to minister unto their God. And I have brought this people together this night to make unto you a choice. You can minister unto men and I will cause you to sway the hearts of men with your talents. **Or, you can go through a very small gate and in making you worshippers you will minister unto the King.**"

SYMPOSIUM '81 MESSAGE GIVEN TO CHARLOTTE BAKER. FROM AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE, "THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE". TAPE IS AVAILABLE FROM FOUNTAIN GATE TAPE LIBRARY, 2501 CUSTER ROAD, PLANO, TEXAS, 75075.

A NOTE OF CAUTION:

There is a difference between the garments of ministry to be worn in the inner court ministry versus the outer courts ministry to the people. Be careful of letting any pride develop over the inner court ministry or you will experience buffeting in the same manner as Paul. Rather pray that any prideful flesh be removed so that there is no flesh for Satan to implant his thorn. The ministry to the outer courts will be in different garments. That ministry will be at the level of gifts that the people can receive and will meet their needs. Pride will say "I am too advanced to teach in dreams, visions, tongues, and prophecy. Humility will say to meet the needs of the people as the Holy Spirit leads. Jesus taught in parables when that was needed by the people. 1Cor 12:4 **How that he was caught into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.** 12:7 **And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.**

For example, Job was a righteous man and found it difficult to understand why God seemed to turn his back on him. However in Job 38, he was elevated through a whirlwind portal into the very presence of God and began to understand why events transpired. Was his allegiance to God due to all the benefits and blessings he had received from God, or was it because he worshipped God no matter what. And then in Job 41 he was shown the source of pride: **Leviathan, the king over all the children of pride.**

Ezekiel 44:15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord God: 44:16 They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. 44:17 **And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within.** 44:18 They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causes sweat. 44:19 **And when they go forth into the utter court, even to the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chamber, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.**

The Flowers of His Garden

There was an obscure field in an out of the way place which began to grow flowers. No one knows how the seeds of these flowers reached this field - perhaps they were blown there by the wind. One day the beauty of these flowers was noticed by a gardener. The gardener did not try to change the pattern of the flowers into artificial looking rows but sensed that they were already arranged more beautifully in the form of a living bouquet. The gardener helped the flowers by pulling weeds and watering as needed.

As the garden developed, people came from far and wide to observe the beauty of this obscure field in the out of the way place. Along the road by the side of the field the gardener placed a plaque which read: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Many men came and said, "These flowers are so beautiful, I must pick them for my very own." As they reached out to pick them, an invisible hand stayed their hand and a voice said, "These are my plantings and I have given them my Name. You may move among them and admire their beautiful colors and smell their fragrances. If you picked them and took them for your own, then I would have to remove my Name from them, and they would wither away and die. These plantings are planted by my rivers of water and shall not wither when the heat comes, neither shall they cease from yielding. These are my very own special treasure and I am jealous that no man may place his name on them."

And then for a fleeting second in the twinkling of an eye, the men saw this bouquet in the hand of the One whose voice they heard. It appeared as a signet embedded with rainbow lighted jewels. Surprised, and still feeling the pressure of the invisible hand, these men drew back their hands. They admired the beauty, color and exquisite fragrances of the delicate flowers. They marveled at how each flower was unique and different and yet at peace with those around it. Every flower occupied its chosen place in the Sun. From a distance they saw no one flower but a beautiful multi-colored bouquet. Thus the visitors went on their way in wonderment at the mystery of how they might exchange their works for His and their name for His