

Five Impossibilities

Matthew 19:23-26

Introduction: There are people who don't like to deal with absolutes. If you tell them something is impossible, they look for a way to make it possible. Even when something is identified as impossible in scriptures, there are people who will deny the impossible truth in favor of a remote possibility.

Our study will look at five things identified as impossible in scripture. Interestingly, all these impossible things deal with the spiritual.

I. It is impossible for man to save himself (Matt. 19:25-26; Mark 10:26-27; Luke 18:26-27).

A. It is impossible for offences not to come (Luke 17:1).

B. Everyone sins (Rom. 3:21-26). Notice it is Christ's grace that will ultimately save us through faith.

C. Works of the law won't save us (Eph. 2:8-9). This is not to say works play no part in our salvation. We simply can not merit our salvation by works.

II. It is impossible for the law to bring salvation (Rom. 8:3-8; Heb. 10:4).

A. That is not to say we can ignore the law. The law must still be obeyed. But in the end, Christ will judge man based on how we lived according to the law and His grace is what will save us.

B. I cannot appeal to a work of the law for salvation. I cannot claim that I should be saved because I was baptized. Nor could I claim salvation because I repented. Christ will decide based on our obedience to the Spirit.

C. Notice the philosophy of continual cleansing will not bring salvation since we must fulfill the "righteous requirements of the law" according to the Spirit. To sin according to the flesh is to be carnally minded which means all who believe in such a philosophy will face eternal death.

III. It is impossible for those who would re-crucify Christ to find repentance (Heb. 6:4-6). (This is all one sentence.)

A. A similar passage might help to further explain this impossibility (Heb. 10:26-31).

B. God is not denying such a sinner the possibility of repenting. Rather, God is informing us that such a person will not repent despite **our** best efforts. This should give us pause when trying to decide if we should try to restore the withdrawn.

1. By their own free choice, they has no interest in repentance. The persuasion of others will not help unless they changes their own mind.

2. For most such people, they are like a person who jumps off a bridge. Will they decide halfway down that jumping wasn't such a good idea? Can they turn back time? We all know that if we jump off a bridge there is no turning back. The nature of the situation (gravity) will prevent repentance (turning back).

IV. It is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18).

A. If we agree with this impossibility understand all the previous impossibilities are from the same Greek word.

B. Just 14 verses previous it was stated by the same word for impossible that God can not lie, that it is impossible **for us** to renew some people to repentance.

V. It is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6).

A. Perhaps this is what all the previous impossibilities boil down too. Do we have the faith to admit that some things are impossible?

B. Let God be true and all men liars (Rom. 3:3-8).

1. It is by the misconduct of man that God's righteousness is seen by properly punishing the evil doer. But it is man who reasons that punishing the evil doer is being evil. *"Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?"*

2. If God says the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10), would it show God's righteousness to forgive such a person? The only way this scenario is even possible is if we ignore the impossibility of his repentance and assume that it is possible for a work of the law (i.e. repentance) could save him.

3. We might want to believe that the impossible is possible through repentance. But if we have faith, we will know that the impossible is always impossible when God says it is impossible. Without faith in God it is impossible to please Him!

Conclusion: There are things that are impossible. It is impossible for man to save himself; for the law to save us; for those who have re-crucified Christ **for us** to bring them to salvation; for God to lie or for us to please God without faith. These things are absolutes that are truly impossible.