

# WHO WANTS TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM

By Rod

*This sketch is based on 'The Rich Young Ruler' [Matthew 19 vv 16-23, Mark 10 vv 17-23, Luke 18 vv 18-24] and is a parody of the TV quiz show 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'. As much authenticity to the real show should be achieved.*

## CAST

Chris Tarrant *the quiz host*  
Richie King/ Iona Fortune *the rich young ruler and the contestant*  
Jesus *not seen on stage but the 'phone a friend'*

*The music from 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' is played. Chris and Richie are standing side by side behind the set of two stools each with a console facing them.*

CHRIS Good evening and welcome to this special edition of 'Who wants to be a millionaire'. We have with us Richie King from Perea, which is just across the Jordan River. Now Richie is already a millionaire so he is a very rich young man indeed. But he's about to face his final question; the question which could earn him riches beyond even his wildest dreams.  
Well, Richie are you ready?

RICHIE I am indeed. I am keen to see the question.

C Okay. In that case let's play 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'. *[They move forward to take their seats]* Let's waste no more time and have a look at that final crucial question.  
*[Computer graphic appears up on screen. Chris reads as if from the screen in front of him.]*  
"What must I do to inherit eternal life"? *[Looks at Richie who has a wry smile on his face]* What does that look mean?

R It's a question I've been thinking about a lot.

C Does that mean you know the answer?

R I'm afraid not. In fact it's quite the reverse.

C Well let's see the four possible answers anyway. *[Computer graphic reveals the four answers. Again Chris appears to read from the screen in front of him]* Is it:  
A Live a good life  
B Attend synagogue regularly  
C Keep the commandments  
Or D Sell everything I have.  
*[Looking at Richie]* What are you thinking?

R I'm thinking that I really don't know the answer. I'm pretty sure it's not D but the other three are all possible. I've been exploring them since I was a boy.

C You've still got one of your lifelines left. You could `phone a friend.

R Yes, Chris, I'll do that.

C Who do you want to `phone?

R Jesus.

C What does he do?

R He used to be carpenter but now he's a teacher.

C Is he a good teacher?

R Yes, he's very good. He's got an excellent reputation.

C So you think he'll know the answer?

R I hope so.

C Let's see. *[Sound of telephone ringing and then being picked up]*

JESUS Hello.

C Hello, is that Jesus?

J Yes.

C Good, it's Chris Tarrant from 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'.

J I thought it might be. Hello, Chris.

C *[A little surprised]* Oh, right. *[Recovering]* I've got Richie King here and he's stuck on a question. He is hoping you can help him.

J I'll do all I can.

C Excellent. The next voice you will hear will be Richie's and you will have 30 seconds to give him your answer. Your time starts now.

R Hello, Jesus, the question is this: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Is it:  
           A     Live a good life  
           B     Attend synagogue regularly  
           C     Keep the commandments  
       Or     D     Sell everything I have.

J In your case, Richie, the answer is clear.

R           What's that?

J           It's D. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and then you will have treasure in heaven.

R           Are you sure?

J           100%.

R           Okay, thanks.

C           Well he's the kind of friend you need. He certainly seemed to know what he was talking about.

R           Yes, he did seem pretty sure of himself.

C           Well, are you going to take his advice? Are you going to follow Jesus?

R           I can't, Chris, the cost is too high.

C           As you know, Richie, I can't help you. It's your call. It's up to you. But take all the time you need.

R           *[Suddenly deciding]* I'll keep my money, Chris.

C           Is that your final answer?

R           Final answer.

C           So, your money is more important to you than treasure in heaven?

R           Yes, Chris, I'm sad to say it is.

C           So you're not going to follow Jesus?

R           No, Chris, I want to keep my money.

C           Final answer?

R           Final answer. *[Chris and Richie freeze. The voice of Jesus speaks out....]*

J           How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

*THE END*