

REDISCOVERING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PART 34: MATTHEW 19

THE ROAD MAP

LAST WEEK: CHAPTER 18: 21-35

PETER'S QUESTION ON FORGIVENESS

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

TONIGHT: CHAPTER 19

DIVORCE

THE LITTLE CHILDREN

THE RICH YOUNG MAN (RULER)

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19:1-6

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan.

Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

SOME PHARISEES CAME TO HIM TO TEST HIM. THEY ASKED,

"IS IT LAWFUL FOR A MAN TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE

FOR ANY AND EVERY REASON?"

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?

So they are no longer two, but one.

Therefore what God has joined together,

Let man not separate."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19:7

"WHY THEN," THEY ASKED, "DID MOSES COMMAND THAT A MAN GIVE HIS WIFE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND HER AWAY?"

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MATTHEW 5:31-32

"IT HAS BEEN SAID, 'ANYONE WHO DIVORCES HIS WIFE MUST GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE.' BUT I TELL YOU THAT ANYONE WHO DIVORCES HIS WIFE, EXCEPT FOR MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS, CAUSES HER TO BECOME AN ADULTERESS, AND ANYONE WHO MARRIES THE DIVORCED WOMAN COMMITS ADULTERY."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19:7

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DEUTERONOMY 24:1-4

"IF A MAN MARRIES A WOMAN WHO BECOMES DISPLEASING TO HIM BECAUSE HE FINDS SOMETHING INDECENT ABOUT HER, AND HE WRITES HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE, GIVES IT TO HER AND SENDS HER FROM HIS HOUSE, AND IF AFTER SHE LEAVES HIS HOUSE SHE BECOMES THE WIFE OF ANOTHER MAN, AND HER SECOND HUSBAND DISLIKES HER AND WRITES HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE, GIVES IT TO HER AND SENDS HER FROM HIS HOUSE, OR IF HE DIES, THEN HER FIRST HUSBAND, WHO DIVORCED HER, IS NOT ALLOWED TO MARRY HER AGAIN AFTER SHE HAS BEEN DEFILED. THAT WOULD BE DETESTABLE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD. DO NOT BRING SIN UPON THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU AS AN INHERITANCE."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19:7-12

"WHY THEN," THEY ASKED, "DID MOSES COMMAND THAT A MAN GIVE HIS WIFE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND HER AWAY?"

JESUS REPLIED, "MOSES PERMITTED YOU TO DIVORCE YOUR WIVES BECAUSE YOUR HEARTS WERE HARD. BUT IT WAS NOT THIS WAY FROM THE BEGINNING. I TELL YOU THAT ANYONE WHO DIVORCES HIS WIFE, EXCEPT FOR MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS, AND MARRIES ANOTHER WOMAN COMMITS ADULTERY."

THE DISCIPLES SAID TO HIM, "IF THIS IS THE SITUATION BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND WIFE, IT IS BETTER NOT TO MARRY."

JESUS REPLIED, "NOT EVERYONE CAN ACCEPT THIS WORD,
BUT ONLY THOSE TO WHOM IT HAS BEEN GIVEN. FOR SOME ARE
EUNUCHS BECAUSE THEY WERE BORN THAT WAY;
OTHERS WERE MADE THAT WAY BY MEN;
AND OTHERS HAVE RENOUNCED MARRIAGE BECAUSE OF THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN. THE ONE WHO CAN ACCEPT THIS SHOULD ACCEPT IT."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19:7-12

THEN LITTLE CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT TO JESUS
FOR HIM TO PLACE HIS HANDS ON THEM AND PRAY FOR THEM.
BUT THE DISCIPLES REBUKED THOSE WHO BROUGHT THEM.
JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME,
AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE."

MATTHEW 18:1-6

"AT THAT TIME THE DISCIPLES CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED,
"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
HE CALLED A LITTLE CHILD AND HAD HIM STAND AMONG THEM. AND HE SAID:
"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, UNLESS YOU CHANGE AND BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN,
YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. THEREFORE, WHOEVER HUMBLES
HIMSELF LIKE THIS CHILD IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

"AND WHOEVER WELCOMES A LITTLE CHILD LIKE THIS IN MY NAME WELCOMES ME.
BUT IF ANYONE CAUSES ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME TO SIN,
IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO HAVE A LARGE MILLSTONE HUNG AROUND HIS NECK
AND TO BE DROWNED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19: 16-21

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked,
"Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"
"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied.
"There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life,
OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS."

"WHICH ONES?" THE MAN INQUIRED.

JESUS REPLIED, "' 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, 19HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," AND 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

"ALL THESE I HAVE KEPT," THE YOUNG MAN SAID.
"WHAT DO I STILL LACK?"

JESUS ANSWERED, "IF YOU WANT TO BE PERFECT, GO, SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE TO THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19: 22 - 26

WHEN THE YOUNG MAN HEARD THIS, HE WENT AWAY SAD, BECAUSE HE HAD GREAT WEALTH.

THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT IS HARD FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. AGAIN I TELL YOU, 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."

WHEN THE DISCIPLES HEARD THIS, THEY WERE GREATLY ASTONISHED AND ASKED, "WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?"

JESUS LOOKED AT THEM AND SAID, "WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."

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1 JOHN 3:17

"IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED BUT HAS NO PITY ON HIM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN HIM?

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19: 27 - 30

PETER ANSWERED HIM, "WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW YOU!

WHAT THEN WILL THERE BE FOR US?"

JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, AT THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS, WHEN THE SON OF MAN SITS ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, YOU WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME WILL ALSO SIT ON TWELVE THRONES, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. AND EVERYONE WHO HAS LEFT HOUSES OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR FATHER OR MOTHER OR CHILDREN OR FIELDS FOR MY SAKE WILL RECEIVE A HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH AND WILL INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE. BUT MANY WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST, AND MANY WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST."

COMMENTARY

JESUS REPEATEDLY COMMANDS HIS FOLLOWERS TO USE ALL OF THEIR POSSESSIONS, NOT JUST SOME FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THEM, FOR KINGDOM PRIORITIES. [C. L. BLOMBERG]

BUT MANY WHO CLAIM TO TRUST IN CHRIST ARE STILL UNPREPARED TO SERVE HIM WITH ALL OF THEIR POSSESSIONS. [C. L. BLOMBERG]

THE RICH YOUNG RULER PROBABLY KNEW LOGICALLY THAT ETERNAL LIFE WAS WORTH MORE THAN HIS POSSESSIONS, BUT HE MUST HAVE TOLD HIMSELF THAT THAT HE DID NOT REALLY HAVE TO GIVE UP HIS WEALTH TO GAIN IT. [H. N. RIDDERBOS]

THE FACT THAT JESUS DID NOT COMMAND ALL HIS FOLLOWERS TO SELL ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS GIVES COMFORT ONLY TO THE KIND OF PEOPLE TO WHOM HE *WOULD* HAVE ISSUED THAT COMMAND." [R. H. GUNDRY]

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