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Matthew 19
1/10/24

Discussion Questions:

1. The Pharisees seem to have missed Jesus healing multitudes while trying to trick Jesus. Does the church ever miss divine moments while focusing on unimportant religious arguments?
 2. What do you think is the key issue with marriage and divorce that Jesus is wanting them to understand?
 3. Why do you think it is recorded that Jesus told his disciples to let the children come to Him? What do you think they thought?
 4. Why do you think Jesus didn't pursue the rich young ruler?
 5. Do you think Peter was surprised at Jesus' answer to about their reward? Would you be surprised?
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Teaching Notes:

The gospel of Matthew is the history of the life of Christ through the lens of Matthew the tax collector.

Jesus is the true and rightful King of Israel.
He is teaching and demonstrating life in His kingdom.

19:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, *that* He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

And out of all of these thousands come the Pharisees.
They are the legalists that do not like the way Jesus operates.
They don't like His crowds or how he doesn't play by their rules.

So they want to test Him...

3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?"

...Will Jesus uphold the view of the Law and be unpopular?
...Or will He downgrade Moses and say it is for any reason?

The verse they were referring to was...

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some **uncleanness** in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give *it* in her hand, and send her out of his house.

The discussion was over how to define: uncleanness.

4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

Jesus goes all the way to Genesis for God's original intention.

Rather than debate between rabbis, Jesus goes to God's Word.

Jesus believed in the beginning God created mankind.

And they were made male and female.

That was God's intent.

5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Two separate people become something new: one flesh.

Marriage was instituted by God as a union from God.

People should not separate what God has joined.

7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

They sound like Moses made them do it, he *commanded* it.

8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

The issue is divorce results from hardness of heart.

An unwillingness to forgive? Bitterness? Selfishness?

They were permitted to divorce, but it was not the design.

9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Similar to what Jesus did earlier in the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus quotes a law, and then he says, and I say to you.

Is Jesus giving them a new command?

Or is He reminding them in context about the high call of marriage?

Love is the highest level and intent of the Law...

...and the reason we all need a savior.

Jesus is saying you can't go around divorcing your wife and remarrying however you want.

Jesus used sexual immorality/pornea not adultery

The reason Paul gives for divorce of an unbelieving spouse is “God has called us to live in peace” I Cor 7:15

10 His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.” **11** But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given:

Is He saying this saying of marriage w/o divorce? Or eunuchs?

12 For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.”

Born single, choose to be single, choose to serve God single...

...If you can accept it, let him accept it.

13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put *His* hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. **14** But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” **15** And He laid *His* hands on them and departed from there.

Children were precious to parents, but had no place of importance
Jesus reminded them that the children are important.

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

All three gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) tell us this man was rich.
Matthew tells us he was young ([Matthew 19:22](#)), and Luke tells us he was a ruler.

He wants to “do something good” ie. work, to have eternal life.

17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He said to Him, “Which ones?”

There are hundreds of laws and even more interpretations of what those laws mean. He wants to know which ones so he can do it.

Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ **19** ‘Honor your father and *your* mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Jesus here lists the commands that have to do with your neighbor.

20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept [\[g\]](#) from my youth. What do I still lack?”

Why didn't he just walk away self-satisfied at this point?

21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

The word perfect is complete, full grown, mature.

The same thing Jesus says in the sermon on the mount.

Be perfect, like your Father in heaven is perfect.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to 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.”

25 When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” 26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Salvation is impossible without God.

But with God all things are possible.

But he didn't see that to be complete, he had to admit he wasn't.

He had to deny himself, he had to ask for help...

...not just have another thing to check off on his list.

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother [\[h\]](#) or wife or children or [\[i\]](#) lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.

There are rewards for serving and following Christ.

There will be no regrets in heaven for denying yourself on earth.