

QUESTIONS, PART 2

- Life is complicated, and sometimes we have more questions than answers
- this chapter focuses on several questions that we often wrestle with
 - How far can I go?
 - What is God’s ideal for marriage?
 - What can I do to have eternal life? (the emphasis being on the “doing”)
 - How do kids fit in the picture?
 - How much stuff is enough?
 - How much can I keep?
 - What is the proper attitude toward money and wealth?
 - What’s in it for me?

1. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

(1-2) QUESTIONED BY THE PHARISEES

- the Pharisees used it as an occasion to ask Jesus a question
 - Not so they could get an answer, but that they might trap Him
 - Matthew adds “for any reason”
 - Two main schools of thought about divorce
- lesson = change the wording, and this is a question that gets asked often = Can I do (blank) and still be a Christian?
 - It’s like asking, “How much can I get away with?”

(3-9) THE ANSWER

- Jesus responded by asking the Pharisees what the law required
- the reason divorce was allowed = hardness of heart
- Jesus takes them back before the Law and explains God’s original intent for marriage

(10-12) JESUS EXPLAINS HIS ANSWER TO HIS DISCIPLES

- divorce was not part of God’s plan for the marriage and the family
- sometimes it is unavoidable, and there are exceptions, but we have made it too easy and acceptable

(13-16) THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

- the parents were bringing their children to Jesus
- this offended the disciples, and they wanted to get the kids out of the way
 - Unfortunately, a lot of people today get offended by having kids around
- there are some lessons we can learn from the kids
- Jesus loves children, and so should we

2. THE DANGER OF MONEY

(17-18) QUESTION FROM A RICH YOUNG GUY

- Luke tells us that this man was a ruler ([Luke 18:18](#))
- Matthew tells us that he was a young man ([Matthew 19:20](#))
- even though this man was young, rich, and a leader, he came kneeling before Jesus because he sensed there was something lacking in his life
 - Do you feel like there is something missing in your life, then the best thing to do is to come to Jesus
- he recognizes that Jesus is good
- he asks a question here that has been a trap for a lot of people – “is there something I can do?”
 - We may be trying to earn God’s favor by doing what we think will get us on His good side
 - Maybe we think we are saved by good works
- many churches have gone down this path when they have substituted a social gospel at the expense of the good news

(19-22) JESUS ANSWERS

- Jesus answers with a question of His own
- “If you’re calling Me good,” Jesus says, “is it because you understand that I must indeed be God?”
- Jesus then draws the young man’s attention to the law
- by his answer, this young man was not only rich and in a position of leadership, but was also religious and morally upright
 - Basically, he was saying, “I’m good too.”
- Jesus loved this young man, but the truth was that he had allowed something other than God to be his god
 - Notice in referring to the commandments, Jesus omitted the first two
- Jesus identified what was keeping the young man from being committed to God – his wealth
- Jesus then gave some specific instructions
 - Go sell what you have and give to the poor
 - Take up the cross
 - Follow Me
- what is it in our lives that is keeping us from being totally committed to God
- this guy left sorrowful because he did not want to depart with his stuff
- some questions to think about
 - What’s more important? Your “stuff” or Jesus?

- Is there something or some one that's keeping you from following Jesus like you should?
- How much of my stuff can I keep?

(23-27) IT IS HARD FOR THE RICH

- Jesus makes a statement here that is hard to swallow, and even astonished the disciples

- upon seeing their reaction, Jesus repeated Himself

- money and wealth can be a dangerous thing

- [1 Timothy 6:3-11](#) – If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a [means of] gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- Jesus had already warned about the things that cause a person to be ineffective and unfruitful in their life in [Matthew 13:22](#) – "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

- It's not just "having" (v. [23](#)) riches, but "trusting" (v. [24](#)) in them that causes the problems.

- Paul warned in [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#) – Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. [Let them] do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- this really confused the disciples because in the Old Testament economy financial blessing was often associated with godliness

- Jon Courson says about this verse, "It's impossible for a rich man to be saved. It's impossible for a poor man to be saved. It takes a miracle for any man to be saved."

(28-31) THE FIRST WILL BE LAST

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