

## 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?

- we come to the last in a series of questions that really address what it means to be a true Christ follower

- What’s in it for me?
- What does a servant leader look like?
- What is the path to greatness in the kingdom?

### 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
- 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
- It’s not just “having” (v. 23) riches, but “trusting” (v. 24) in them that causes the problems.

**(28-31) THE FIRST WILL BE LAST**

- as Peter thinks about the response that Jesus had given concerning the danger of riches and wanting to hold on to stuff, he then says, “What about us. We have left everything
- Jesus lets them know that we lose nothing, but gain everything when we choose to forsake all and follow Him
  - We gain an entire new family = the body of Christ
  - There will also be persecutions
    - This is not something we are excited about embracing
  - The best = in the age to come, eternal life
    - Are you sure of your eternal destiny?
- don’t always try to be first, and make sure you get what you think you deserve
  - Honestly, that is behind a lot of the reason we get angry = we don’t get what we think we deserve to get

**3. MORE LESSONS ON GREATNESS**

**(32-34) JESUS AGAIN TALKS ABOUT WHAT AWAITS HIM IN JERUSALEM**

- this time Jesus is approaching Jerusalem, and He is going before His disciples
- the reaction = they were amazed and frightened
- Jesus clearly explains what is awaiting Him in Jerusalem

**(35-37) QUESTION ABOUT POSITION IN THE KINGDOM**

- two of the guys come to Jesus with a special request
- before they reveal what it is that they want Jesus to do, He asks them, “What do you want me to do for you?”
- they responded by saying that they wanted the number 1 and 2 spots in the kingdom
- still having the idea of wanting to be first, even though Jesus had just told them that the first will be last

- too many times we are only looking out for ourselves – what’s in it for me

**(38-41) JESUS ANSWERS**

- Jesus responds by telling them that really don’t know what they are asking for

- be careful what you wish for = A man is walking down the beach and comes across an old bottle. He picks it up, pulls out the cork and out pops a genie. The genie says, “Thank you for freeing me from the bottle. In return I will grant you three wishes.” The man says “Great! I always dreamed of this and I know exactly what I want. First, I want one billion dollars in a Swiss bank account.” Poof! There is a flash of light and a piece of paper with account numbers appears in his hand. He continues, “Next, I want a brand new red Ferrari right here.” Poof! There is a flash of light and a bright red brand-new Ferrari appears right next to him. He continues, “Finally, I want to be irresistible to women.” Poof! There is a flash of light and he turns into a box of chocolates.

- sometimes, most of the time, what we want is different from what God wants

- Jesus then asks them if they are able to follow Him in His suffering

- remember what He had been talking to them about in verses [32-34](#)

- they immediately respond that they were able

- it is amazing how confident we are in our own ability and strength

- Jesus told them that they would drink of His cup, and be baptized with His baptism

- James was martyred. John was placed in a cauldron of boiling oil and then exiled on the island of Patmos.

- when the other ten heard what James and John had done, they were greatly displeased = they got mad, ticked off

- Why
  - Most likely it was because they wanted to have those same places of prominence in the kingdom.
  - Remember how they had been arguing over who was the greatest? ([Mark 9:33-34](#))

**(42-45) THE PLACE OF GREATNESS**

- this is the great section on what it means to be a servant leader

- Rather than demanding that people follow us and do what we want them to do, show the way by serving

- the teaching of what greatness in the kingdom looks like

- our example and model = Jesus

**4. JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN**

**(46-51) BARTIMAEUS HEALED**

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August 14, 2022