

Matthew 19.16-20.16 - Sermon Notes

DEALING WITH PRORITIES

- can you in a sentence or two describe the greatest priority in your life?
 - what is it that keeps you motivated
 - what do you devote the most energy, time, and effort to - that thing that you do not allow any things to stop you from doing that thing?
 - it's almost like answering the question - why am i here, or what is my purpose in life
- According to a popular blog site, calendar.com, the most important priorities of people are, in this order
 1. Health
 2. Relationships
 3. Your "why"
- According to a recent Barna survey--
 - Most American adults consider themselves to be not merely "religious," but "deeply spiritual." That's the claim of 62% of all adults interviewed in the annual religious tracking survey conducted by The Barna Group, of Ventura, California. However, when the religious and spiritual commitments of Americans were studied more closely, those outcomes question the meaning of being "deeply spiritual."
 - In particular, the research discovered that when adults were asked to identify their single, most important priority in their life these days, commitment to their faith placed second – but was listed by just one out of every six people.
 - Top Priorities Identified = By far the top priority listed by adults – named by half of the population (51%) – was their family.

(19.16-22) THE RICH YOUNG RULER

1. (16-17) a man, who just happens to be young, rich, and successful still has a lingering question about eternal life

- here is the age old dilemma - is there something I can do to make sure I get into heaven
- it is human nature to try by our efforts to gain the blessing and favor of God

- every other religion outside of Christianity is based on the ability of the worshipper to "do"

- Christianity is not about doing because it has already been done

- why do you call me "good"

- Jesus is either saying that He is not good, or He is saying that He is God. The latter is correct.

- remember that the Scriptures teach that there is no one that is good

- Jesus responds by saying "keep the commandments"

2. (18-20) more questions about which commandments he should be keeping

- even after declaring his own state of righteousness by following the law, he still realized that there was something missing

- being religious does not make a person right with God
- this has always been, and is true today = following the rules makes us self-righteous but not right with God
- legalism tends to break relationships, especially with God, and we find that after keeping all the rights, that something is still missing

3. (21-22) decision time

- Jesus identified what was holding this man back = his possessions

- in every person's life there seems to be something that we don't want to let go of

- is there really anything in your life worth more than a personal relationship with God?

- remember the words of Jesus in [Matthew 16.26-27](#).

- from the Sermon on the Mount, we learned that you cannot serve two masters

([Matthew 6.24](#))

(19.23-30) PUTTING JESUS FIRST

1. (23-26) with God, all things are possible

- the disciples were blown away because of this because the rabbis taught that the closer a person was to God the wealthier they would be

- there are two views about the eye of the needle

- a small gate in the city -Supposedly Jerusalem had this kind of a door in one of its gates. The idea was to allow people to come in and out of the city on the Sabbath, but not big wagons and animals carrying large loads. Supposedly these small doors in a gate were called "needles-eyes". A camel could actually get through one of these doors, but in order to do it, the load had to be taken off the camel, the camel would have to get on its knees, and then it would have to shuffle through on its knees. If this is what Jesus was talking about, then a rich man could be saved as long as he dumps his load and humbles himself on his knees.
 - a literal sewing needle and a literal candle
- it seems to me by the reaction of the disciples that the latter is what Jesus was talking about
 - salvation by man's efforts is impossible, but with God all things are possible
 - thing about someone who you think that it is impossible for them to ever come to the Lord

2. (27-30) Putting Jesus first

- the disciples ask, "what about us?"
- nothing you give up for Jesus will go unnoticed by the Father
- the disciples will rule when Jesus comes back
- the principles = put Jesus first in everything

(20.1-16) PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

1. (1-2) The story about a man hiring day laborers

- this story was given in response to Peter's question about rewards. Through it, Jesus is saying, "You'll have rewards eternally. You will have everything returned one hundred-fold presently. But because the first shall be last and the last shall be first, when payday comes and rewards are given, there will be some big surprises."

2. (3-7) hiring additional laborers throughout the day

3. (8-10) paying the workers

4. (11-15) the workers complain about the fairness of the man who hired them

5. (16) the parable applied

- Lessons
 1. the first will be last (there will lots's of surprises in heaven.

2. On our journey, watch out for complaining about the fairness of God in the way a fellow-laborer is reward by the Father
3. It is never too late to get started

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September 26, 2021