

## Matthew 20 “The Ransom of the Messiah”

Stand Read Matthew 19:27-30 Pray.

We just read the end of last week’s chapter to get the feel for this week as there were no chapter breaks in the original. This parable is attached to the last thought and is very important as this deals with our salvation and not our rewards. Everyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ will receive eternal life. This lesson today needs to be implanted into their minds as they will be the ones that will begin bringing the gospel to the “Ends of the Earth”. As Jesus’s interaction with the rich young ruler was showing that it was his riches that were in the way of salvation and was in great contrast to the teaching of the day that taught that riches were blessings by God rewarded to people for their good works. We will see that even after this, they still don’t get it. Why? Because they still think that they are right before God by their pedigree. They think they have status because they left all to follow Him. They wanted rewards when what they needed was a ransom. They have yet to see their sins on the cross and when they do, they will understand the Ransom of the Messiah!

We left off with Peter wanting to know what they would get. Jesus gives them the astounding reply that they have a place of rulership in the coming Kingdom age. But what does that look like? Is it by works? What does this mean?

Matthew 19:30

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

He will tell us!

## The Parable of the Workers

Matthew 20:1-16

You can notice that the parables are starting to get longer and almost all of them deal with salvation and rewards. These stories were done to resonate in the minds of the disciples so after the cross and resurrection they will understand the full meaning of these things. When the Gentiles come into the kingdom by way of the gospel it will destroy every last vestige of works righteousness. Peter, the one who asked the question that led to this parable, said at the Jerusalem Counsel when the Judaizers were saying that the gentiles had to be circumcised and follow the law of Moses...

Acts 15:10-11

Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

The Denarius represents salvation that is given to all who would believe. There are many who come at the eleventh hour. We are glad they can. But it gets easy to think that we who have borne the heat of the day, who have labored for the master from the dawn till setting sun, to think we deserve more. There will be rewards for our faithfulness and only with the right motives. The

Jews thought they were special, and they are, but not more than anyone else when it comes to God's love and forgiveness that He offers all.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Matthew 20:16

"...So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Some of you have bibles that have removed the end of verse 16 and it is another reason I don't rely upon those versions. Don't throw it away! But I would suggest that you get a KJV and/or a NKJV to use with your bible and study so you can learn the differences. This statement is in Matthew 22:14 in another parable so we will deal with it here. This is one of many places that that speak either for or against the Calvinist teaching of "Limited Atonement" that teaches that Jesus only died for those that will be saved. The point is everyone is called, but not everyone will come. Those that come are the chosen. Some people want to argue that but not me. It is what the Bible teaches.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 1:11-12

He came to His own, and His own did not receive (Chose) Him. But as many as received (Choose) Him, to them He gave the right (Authority) to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation (Appeasement of God's Wrath) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

The gospel is going out into all the world. Everyone is called to receive it. Those that do will be those that are the chosen. Do \* you want to be chosen? Then choose Christ!

Jesus Tells them Again!

Matthew 20:17-19

Jesus is making it quite clear what is about to happen. Why did they not understand this? Because of their preconceived notion of the coming of the Messiah. Hey, don't blame them, we can be guilty of the same thing. We are all needing to have our minds changed and renewed to be conformed to God's way of thinking. Our problem is that we are making a Jesus in our own image. We want Him to be who we want and not who He is. This is why we need to...

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

That is why we study the Bible. We let it conform our thinking and be a guide to our path. They still have a lot to learn though!

Jesus Schools the Sons of Zebedee

Matthew 20:20-28

We have proof that Jesus' last statement just flew right over their heads. They still think that Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to be crowned king and they who have left all to follow Him will be ruling with Him. They are still being ruled by their flesh and it has blinded them to the need for a Savior. Jesus' teaching has been filled with what it takes to be in the Kingdom, and they should have seen their lack and need. The thing is though that they will discover the truth. James would be the first to find this out...

Acts 12:1-2

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

And John would see his share of suffering...

Revelation 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

They were baptized with the same baptism that Jesus was. We need to remember that we should do the same things that Paul did...

Philippians 3:10

...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...

Of Course, the rest of them got upset that they would try to get one over on them, to go ahead and try to reserve a spot before them. Pride is a problem in all of us and Jesus used this to make another good point. The world rules over people. Many church leaders today think it their job to be served. They love the standing ovations and being catered to because of their celebrity status. They have lost the meaning of the word for Pastor. They have lost what it really means to be a follower of Christ. Jesus finishes with this amazing statement...

Matthew 20:27-28

“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

It is easy to become someone who lords himself over others when you forget that you were ransomed. The word used here is only used in this and Mark’s gospel. It is the ransom price for a captive or slave. Jesus is giving His life willingly for our lives. That is the example that He is trying to teach them. Paul understood this and taught us...

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth,

and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Have you grown so proud that you have lost the heart to serve? Maybe you need to look back at the cross. Maybe you need to see again the tremendous price that was paid for your soul. James would leave you with this thought...

What Pride will do to you:

James 4:1-10

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."



7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

The cure is there. Humble yourself by looking to the cross. Submit yourself to Christ and His authority over your life. Resist Satan's temptations to make you believe you are entitled. Then draw near to God and stay there! This will give you a heart to serve when you realize that the same ransom price that was paid for you is the same for everyone else. Everyone becomes your equal and that is a good place to be.

Finally...

The Two Blind Men  
Matthew 20:29-34

The first thing we need to address is another supposed contradiction in the Bible. We read in Luke's Gospel...

Luke 18:35

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging.

Was there two or one? Was he leaving Jericho or Coming in? The first is easy, there were two, but one was probably more

noticeable, so Mark and Luke only record one. The second is little trickier and it wasn't until recent history that we find out.

<https://livingstoncoc.wordpress.com/2011/10/02/jesus-and-the-cities-of-jericho/>

From a blog I found online:

It must be understood that there “were two Jericho’s in Jesus’ day. D. James Kennedy, who has visited this location, writes: The Roman Jericho that was built a mile away from the original site, and which is closer to the Roman road that leads up to Jerusalem. There is the old Israelite Jericho, the site Joshua marched around. The Roman road goes right between the two.

So, again the critics are left holding the bag and we can continue to trust our bibles. But let us not miss the importance of the story. These blind men realized their condition. Discovered the answer was in Christ and did everything they could to get to Him. Their blindness was only a symptom of the problem. Sin was the problem, and it is the problem you have. You can't see until this problem is dealt with. You need to come to Christ and be made well.

Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Revelation 3:17-18

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

You can almost see how all these stories this morning fit together. You can see how they are a message for today. The Laodicean Church, today's church in America, thinks they are all that and a bag of chips. They don't see their need. They don't see their blindness and therefore they are not calling out to God. The real problem is that God is calling them, but their blindness has also made them deaf to His knocking...

Revelation 3:19-20

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Are \* you ready to open the door? Have you allowed the pride of life to blind you of your need? Has your fellowship been stifled by the cares of this life. Humble yourself today and do business with Him. If you cry out to Him, He will have compassion on you and give you your sight. He will come into your life!

Stand Pray Song