

Matthew 19 “The Possibilities of the Messiah”

Stand Read Matthew 19:1-6 Pray.

We are now beginning the journey to Jerusalem for the last week of Jesus' life. This is what is known as the “Passion” week that will start with His triumphant entry that we will see in a couple of weeks. The way He goes today will take Him back around through Jericho and up to Jerusalem where He will be crucified for the sins of the world. But of course His journey will include more encounters that teach us something and today it will be the Possibilities of the Messiah.

Matthew 19:1-2

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. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

The way this is structured it is implying that He is leaving and not coming back. At least not as the suffering servant but as the victorious resurrected Son of Man as we will see at the end of this book. An interesting note is that this area that is called “Beyond the Jordan” is the east side of the Jordan river by Jericho. If you have been with us on Wednesdays, it is where we are with the Children of Israel before they enter the Promised Land by the leadership of Joshua. Jesus will go through Jericho next week on His way to Jerusalem to make the way into the Promised Land of Heaven for us by way of the cross. Just as Joshua's campaign is a

victory so is Jesus's. One thing to note is that He still has large crowds following Him. He will until the cross. People love Jesus. They love everything about Him. They love what He has done for you. They will say good things about Him. That is until they realize the way to Him is by way of the cross. This same crowd that will follow Him to Jerusalem will shout "Hosana!" will be the same that shout "Crucify" a week later. Don't be moved that the crowds aren't huge. You can also see that there is a reason some movements are so big. You remove the cross from Jesus and the whole world will come behind you. The problem is the only way to life is through it. He must go through Jericho by way of Jerusalem and to the cross. If you are willing to follow him the possibilities are endless. Death is the way to eternal life. He has to do the impossible to make the impossible possible. Even with His knowledge of this and the fickleness of the people He still shows them grace by healing them. Amazing! But, of course, the Pharisees are having none of it...

Matthew 19:3

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?"

We covered this a little bit in our Wednesday study, and we need to cover it here again. These religious leaders are coming to test Jesus. This is a highly debated issue that they think is their moment to get the crowds to see Him as a fraud. This is not an honest testing. This is deliberately done in a way as to try to trip Him up. Their heart is already set on rejection and all they are doing is trying to get everyone else to also. As I mentioned before

they asked this question knowing that there was two schools of thought on this. One, said that you could only divorce your wife in the case of Adultery and the other was for any reason at all. So, with that thought let's look at the story...

Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 19:3-9

They were trying to use Moses own words to trip Him up. But what does He do? Takes them back to God's word before the fall. He also confirms creation, destroys the theory of evolution and show us that sexual identity is fixed.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Gods original plan for marriage is for life. It was to be a union. A fellowship untied by the bond of marriage and is so special because it is a picture of the bond between God and man through Jesus Christ. We are the bride of Christ and our marriage to Him is eternal and unbreakable. Just as man was created before the fall in God's image a good marriage is in the image of Christ after the fall. This is why Jesus had to say...

Matthew 19:6

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

I like the Old King James “Pulled Asunder” meaning ripped apart. Anyone, believer or unbeliever that has experienced a divorce knows that is exactly what it was. It also leaves a scar as bad as when you rip your flesh off. This is why when they bring up the law Jesus answered with the reason of their hardness of heart. They, of course only quoted part of the law...

Deuteronomy 24:1

When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house...

Can you see the debate? What is an uncleanness? If we leave it open, we can come up with whatever we want. And why is that? Because of the hardness of our sin sick heart. I am not here to do a long teaching on marriage and divorce and in every instance, there are many factors that go into the reasoning why people separate. You can't just blanket it with a teaching or doctrine as we are all sinners and we all have a hard heart sometimes so each marriage takes lots of prayer and listening to find the right wisdom for each situation. We know what God says about it...

Malachi 2:16

For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce

Why, because He knows the pain and suffering that goes along with it. He knows that it is the hardest thing many will face in life.

As I said it also destroys the picture that God wants to make of His Son and His bride, the Church.

We know that Jesus finishes His interaction with them by taking the most conservative viewpoint as He says the only reason for divorce is “Sexual Immorality”.

Sexual Immorality = GRK “Porneia”

Any sexual activity outside the confines of marriage between one man and one woman, period.

No ands, ifs or buts. No cultural differences over time. No “That’s not what He really meant”. It’s just what He said. Like it, leave it, or lump it, that’s the facts.

But we see which side of the isle the disciples are on by this statement...

Matthew 19:10

His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”

Boy, I sure hope none of their wives were present! It will be interesting when we get to Heaven as Gods word is forever settled there and when this section of scripture is brought up. Can’t wait to look at their faces! Let me just say the key to a good marriage is very simple, put God first in all that you do. Do everything under that rule. If you put your wife first and God

second you will have problems. Peter would learn his lesson and would write...

1 Peter 5:5

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

Jesus teaches on celibacy

Matthew 19:11-12

Jesus said that some are gifted with the ability to not be married and serve Him fully. Paul will talk about this in length in 1 Corinthians 7.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9

But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Jesus Blesses the Children

Matthew 19:13-15

We see again that the disciples have not learned anything yet. We talked all about this last week so I would refer you to that teaching for more details. We can say that Jesus loves children and God is very grieved over the way they are being treated today. From abortion to CRT and Gender confusion you can

imagine it will not be long before He enacts wrath on this world.
We would be wise to bring the children to Jesus!

The Rich Young Ruler Matthew 19:16-22

This is a classic story and one that should resonate with all of us. We know from Luke's gospel that he was ruler. But this person fits as the average American today. In that day and age if you have what even the poorest person here has you would be considered rich. Almost every person you ask if they are a good person they would say yes. Notice how Jesus answers this person's question. He wanted to know what he could do to have eternal life. He knew that Jesus would be the one with the answer and addressed Him as "Good Teacher". Jesus answers Him with His first response but he didn't get it. He said no one is good but, One and that is God. A truth from the scriptures...

Psalm 14:2-3

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

And how do we know that? By answering the question that this man asked, "Which ones?". The Ten Commandments are the thing that tells us that none are good, and all have sinned. Obviously, this guy was not around to hear the sermon on the mount, or he could not have answered that he had kept all these

things. But Jesus plays along and points out his real problem...his riches. Isn't that everyone's problem?

1 Timothy 6:9-10

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.

There are many today in the church that rely on their prosperity. They are hanging on to their riches and still think they are OK with God. The last days Laodicean church is marked by this...

Revelation 3:17

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

Jesus understands this and that is why he uses it to teach the disciples an important lesson...

The Possibilities of the Messiah

Matthew 19:23-26

Jesus used an interesting statement of passing a Camel through the eye of a needle and there are some who liken it to a gate they had in Jerusalem that Camels could get through with difficulty. If that were so, then how could they say, "Who then can be saved?"

Verse 26 is one you need to have memorized and underlined. It is the truth you need to know. All things are possible. It is impossible for man to be able to do anything for eternal life. But God! He has provided a way! Notice Peter's answer...

Matthew 19:27

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

We can laugh at his foot in mouth disease all you want but what Jesus says next is astonishing...

Matthew 19:28

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."

Up to this point we have not heard anything from Jesus about this. I mean this is revolutionary! Sitting on thrones judging the twelve tribes! This is a reference to the Millennial kingdom and worthy of our note. You and I that have put our faith and trust in Christ may lose everything. We may be poor and disabled. We may not seem like much right now but there is coming a time where you will have great worth and power. You will be ruling and reigning with Christ!

Matthew 19:29

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

It is the great paradox of the Kingdom of God. We lose our life to gain it. We give up to get. We die to find life. It is summed up in His next statement here...

Matthew 19:30

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

It's the formula for life. When we realize that we are sinners and deserve to be last when we receive Christ, He lifts us up. Your riches can't save you; your works can't save you; you cannot save yourself; it is impossible. But God, all things are possible. Are you willing to lose your life for his sake?

Mark 8:36-37

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

What do you have to lose? It's nothing compared to what can be gained!

Pray Communion Song