

Session 22: Jesus teaches on Prayer, Divorce, Children, and the Perils of Riches**Matthew 19:1-20:16; Mark 10::1-31; Luke 18:1-30****The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)**

- 1** *Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,*
- 2** *saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.*
- 3** *"Now there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice from my opponent.'*
- 4** *"And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,*
- 5** *yet because this widow is bothering me, I will give her justice, lest by continually coming she wears me out.'"*
- 6** *And the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.*
- 7** *"Now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?*
- 8** *"I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find that faith on the earth?"*

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

- 9** *And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:*
- 10** *"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.*
- 11** *"The Pharisee stood and was praying these things to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.*
- 12** *'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'*
- 13** *"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'*
- 14** *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

Matthew 19:1-12	Mark 10:1-12	Luke
<p>1 Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;</p> <p>2 and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.</p> <p>3 And some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"</p> <p>4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,</p> <p>5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?</p> <p>6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."</p> <p>7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?"</p> <p>8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from</p>	<p>1 And standing up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.</p> <p>2 And some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.</p> <p>3 And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"</p> <p>4 And they said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY."</p> <p>5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote for you this commandment.</p> <p>6 "But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.</p> <p>7 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER,</p> <p>8 AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.</p> <p>9 "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."</p> <p>10 And in the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again.</p>	

<p><i>the beginning it has not been this way.</i></p> <p>9 <i>“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”</i></p> <p>10 <i>The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”</i></p> <p>11 <i>But He said to them, “Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given.</i></p> <p>12 <i>“For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.”</i></p>	<p>11 <i>And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; 12 and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”</i></p>	<p>18 <i>“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.</i></p>
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Jesus and Children

Matthew 19:13-15	Mark 10:13-16	Luke 18:15-17
<p>13 <i>Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them.</i></p> <p>14 <i>But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (cf. Matthew 18:3-4)</i></p>	<p>13 <i>And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them.</i></p> <p>14 <i>But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them;</i></p>	<p>15 <i>And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they were rebuking them.</i></p> <p>16 <i>But Jesus called for them, saying, “Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them,</i></p>

<p>15 <i>And after laying His hands on them, He departed from there.</i></p>	<p><i>for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.</i> 15 <i>“Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”</i> 16 <i>And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.</i></p>	<p><i>for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.</i> 17 <i>“Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”</i></p>
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The Perils of Riches

Matthew 19:16-20:16	Mark 10:17-31	Luke 18:18-30
<p>16 <i>And behold, someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”</i> 17 <i>And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”</i> 18 <i>Then he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “YOU SHALL NOT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS;</i> 19 <i>HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”</i> 20 <i>The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?”</i></p>	<p>17 <i>And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”</i> 18 <i>And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.</i> 19 <i>“You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’”</i> 20 <i>And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”</i> 21 <i>And looking at him, Jesus loved him and said</i></p>	<p>18 <i>And a ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”</i> 19 <i>And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.</i> 20 <i>“You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’”</i> 21 <i>And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”</i></p>

<p>21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."</p> <p>22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.</p> <p>23 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>24 "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."</p> <p>25 And when the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?"</p> <p>26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."</p> <p>27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"</p> <p>28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</p>	<p>to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."</p> <p>22 But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.</p> <p>23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"</p> <p>24 And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!</p> <p>25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."</p> <p>26 And they were even more astonished, saying to Him, "Then who can be saved?"</p> <p>27 Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."</p> <p>28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have</p>	<p>22 And when Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack: sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me."</p> <p>23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.</p> <p>24 And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!</p> <p>25 "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."</p> <p>26 And those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"</p> <p>27 But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."</p> <p>28 And Peter said, "Behold, we have</p>
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<p>29 <i>“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive one hundred times as much, and will inherit eternal life.</i></p> <p>30 <i>“<u>But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.</u>”</i></p>	<p><i>left everything and followed You.”</i></p> <p>29 <i>Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,</i></p> <p>30 <i>except one who will receive one hundred times as much now in the present age—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.</i></p> <p>31 <i>“<u>But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.</u>”</i></p>	<p><i>left all that is our own and followed You.”</i></p> <p>29 <i>And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,</i></p> <p>30 <i>who will not receive many times more at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”</i></p>
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Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-15)

- 1** *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.*
- 2** *“Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.*
- 3** *“And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace;*
- 4** *and to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And so they went.*
- 5** *“Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing.*
- 6** *“And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’*
- 7** *“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’*

8 *“Now when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.’*

9 *“And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.*

10 *“And when those hired first came, they supposed that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.*

11 *“Now when they received it, they were grumbling at the landowner,*

12 *saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’*

13 *“But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; **did you not agree with me** for a denarius?’*

14 *‘Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.*

15 ***Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own?** Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’*

16 *“So the last shall be first, and the first last.”*

Memory Verse:

And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26

Discussion Questions

1. A Just Judge answers the plea for justice. What does it mean to pray for justice? Is that what you pray for? How would this change your prayer life?
2. How often do you take real inventory of your faith? Are you honest with yourself about your unfaithfulness or do you compare your faith to others and feel better?
3. Divorce is only allowed because of hardness of hearts and remarriage allowed in the case of porneia. If God were to think about divorcing you and choosing another in your place, would he be justified based on your faithfulness to him and the condition of your heart towards Him? Aren't you glad that He doesn't harden His hearts towards us even when we are unfaithful to our commitment to Him?

- 4. The children wanted to be near Jesus and to have Him touch and pray for them. How often do you just sit in His presence longing for a touch from the Master?**
- 5. What have you left for the kingdom's sake? How hard is it to give God whatever He asks of you? Discuss things that are hard for you to surrender. What makes it difficult for you?**
- 6. When you surrendered to Jesus, did you realize that you were signing up for 100's of persecutions? How are you preparing to endure?**
- 7. How often do you look around and wonder why God gives others things that He doesn't give you? What does it do to your faith? What should we do when we are tempted to think this way?**