

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Good Teacher

Matthew 19:13-30

[Pray]

19:13-15

Then little children were brought to Him...

Right after teaching about marriage and divorce

Children are never out of God's mind, off his radar

Why do adults hate children so much?

Could it be pride? Arrogance? Not having a good childhood themselves? Never growing up themselves? Selfishness?

There are plenty of adults who act like children

Misbehaving, demanding their own way, throwing temper tantrums, always talking about themselves

Much is disguised as good.

Easier to mold a child, corrupt a child, than an adult

Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted. - Vladimir Lenin

How many years do we give our children to others? The government? The lost? The television?

Let the little children come to Me

As Believers, may we never turn children away. Not to idolize them or youth, but to always have a heart to minister to and reach children - always find time to listen, especially to those in broken households

For such is the kingdom of heaven

A reminder, like previously, that it takes childlike faith to know God, not self-willed education or achievement or righteousness

1 Corinthians 8:1b ... Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

That he might put his hands on them and pray...

Pray for our children. Our children's friends. Our grandchildren. The neighbor's kids.

The children of today will be the parents, the police officers, the government officials tomorrow

I know my Aunt and Uncle were praying for me in my darkest days in late teens early adulthood

:16-19

Good Teacher!

I wonder what his tone of voice was? Could you hear his pedigree?

What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?

What work for the ultimate reward?

His effort = reach heaven

Jesus doesn't address that directly first...He first tries to get the man to realize what he's saying and who he's talking to. God.

Jesus reveals two things immediately:

- 1. No one is good, not one righteous (Romans 3:10, Ps. 14:1, Ps. 53)**
- 2. Only God is truly, completely, absolutely good**

Good - agathos

of good constitution or nature

useful, salutary

good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy

excellent, distinguished

upright, honourable

Morally good, objectively good, good enough to go to heaven

Moral - Right and wrong of human action and character

This man claimed to have morals but wasn't sure which moral would save his soul

Our weights and measures are off.

We compare ourselves to others to see who is good. Better than.

Jesus shows us the correct comparison is not to each other but to God.

Sure, you might be better than them, in your estimation, but you have to be as good as God to go to heaven.

Can the rich be moral?

Abraham, David, Solomon

The trend today is to villainize the rich and exalt the poor - as if goodness or being evil was intrinsic to either. It's really a method of control to create class warfare and distract us from who's really in charge. The wicked.

Being rich isn't a sin - but I wonder how many folks have gotten so absolutely wealthy, was it through being ruthless and selfish?

Watching F1, realizing HOW rich some folks are, multi-hundred million dollar yachts, and there are those even richer

Being poor isn't a virtue - There are many poor who are there because of sinful decisions. Jesus doesn't command anyone to be poor - we are to be good stewards, and good stewards might see return on investment. But good stewards might also miss out on the get rich scheme by being honest and caring for others.

Romans 10 talks about preachers being sent...well how can they be sent unless someone sends them (with riches!) God might have made you wealthy so you can support missionaries, provide for widows indeed, start a children's home, etc. etc.

The church in Jerusalem failed big time by basically becoming poor by naively selling everything and starting a commune.

The rich young ruler sees Jesus as being rich in morals, and has come for his financial advice

Seeking financial advice from my friend. The things they don't teach you in government reeducation camps! The things that would take power away from the government and give it to you. You're taught how to stay a subject!

It takes a level of humility to ask for advice, especially in public. But there's probably also a pride to it. I do such good, what other kind of good can there be?

Asking in front of others maybe thinking Jesus will praise him as good, too.

Jesus reveals the cost to enter heaven. Keeping all the commandments

James 2:8-11 NKJV - If you really fulfill [the] royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point], he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder."** Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Which ones?

I think he knew of some he had broken or was breaking

Interesting Jesus starts with the last six and skips the first four

Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

First four God and Man, 6-10 Each Other

1. You shall have no other Gods before Me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol (Israelites, Bull, provision, livestock, work)
3. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day (six days work, seventh rest)
5. Honor father and mother (first with promise)
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie / bear false witness
10. Don't covet

Jesus mentions 6, 7, 8, 9, 5 and says "Love your neighbor as yourself"

Last one isn't a commandment

But a summation of the second "half"

Why does Jesus skip 1-4 and 10?

- Could it be he's kept the first four? Could it be he's only coveting?
- Could it be he's worried about his relationship with God, not going to heaven?
- Could it be Jesus is pointing out that although he doesn't do those things - **he covets**.

Proverbs 13:4 NKJV - The soul of a lazy [man] desires, and [has] nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 21:25-26 NKJV - The desire of the lazy [man] kills him, For his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare.

:20-22

I've kept all those since I was a kid

I've been good as long as I remember, I was a good "boy"

What am I missing? He knew there was something amiss.

Many folks know they're lacking. They try to make up for it. Get good karma.

As a rich young man, I doubt he physically lacked much of anything

Probably had plenty of "friends"

Nice house. Nice car. Nice clothes. Entertainment. Food. Many full bank accounts and available credit lines.

Lack - hystereō

- behind
- to come late or too tardily
- **to be left behind in the race and so fail to reach the goal, to fall short of the end**
- metaph. fail to become a partaker, fall back from
- **to be inferior in power, influence and rank**
- **of the person: to be inferior to**
- **to fail, be wanting**
- **to be in want of, lack**
- **to suffer want, to be devoid of, to lack (be inferior) in excellence, worth**

He knew he wasn't going to make it to heaven. He knew there was something off but he couldn't figure out. He came to the right place, a man he thought was Godly.

Where do we go when we're lacking? Do we ever ask God why the bills came up short? Or do we know it's because we spent it all on X and don't want to deal with it

Do we really want the answer? Many times we know the answer already - but we want it to be something else. Something easier. Something we don't worship.

Jesus says...If you want to be perfect

Perfect- teleios brought to its end, finished

- wanting nothing necessary to completeness
- perfect
- that which is perfect
- consummate human integrity and virtue

- full grown, adult, of full age, mature

Philippians 3:12-15 NKJV - Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

To the man...do this (this isn't a prescription for everyone, but for the person who'd be prevented from knowing God by worshipping wealth)

1. **Sell what you have** (everything? Maybe! Maybe just the excess)
2. **Give to the poor** (Don't pocket the change for the journey, care for others)
3. **Follow Me** (This is what really gets you into heaven - a relationship with God)

Jesus invited this guy to be a disciple. Maybe he could have been the 13th! OR just one of the hundreds who actually were besides the 12.

But his wealth was in the way.

What do you value most? It is your God.
If it isn't God. It will leave you lacking.

Doesn't have to be money

Relationships. Success. Tradition. Opinions of others.

Whatever it is that you value more than God and His direction for your life.

If it prevents you from following Him, even a little, you'll be lacking

Won't be fulfilled in life. Something will always be missing from the picture.

But when he heard that...he went away sorrowful

Sad, grief, offend, uneasy

He went away! Jesus said follow me! But he went away, back to the possessions.

It's been said the things you own will end up owning you
I can't because...

He wanted Heaven, but not at the expense of Earth.

Philippians 3:17-21 - Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. **For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end [is] destruction, whose god [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Ephraim the Syrian, 4th century

[Talking about the tribulation]

For he that is ever enslaved in the matters of life, if he should hear, he disbelieves and abominates the message. Therefore the saints shall be strengthened because day and night they renounce the cares of life.

There's a responsibility to us as believers

Press on, might attain resurrection, avoid the judgment

Not works to be saved, but if we are saved, and know what it cost, are going to push on and make sure Jesus gets his investment out of us

Don't let your fleshly appetites keep you from following God.

"Think not, therefore, as many do, that there is no other hell but poverty, no better heaven than abundance." (Trapp)"

:23-26

Eye of the needle

Was it a gate, like the sheep gate? Take everything burdensome off to enter in. Maybe, not necessarily.

Also was a bit of a humorous saying

Maybe to lighten the mood (a little sugar helps the medicine go down)
and drive the point home

Riches do have a way of owning us. It takes hard work and effort. They're hard to get. Easy to lose. We take pride in our own kingdoms.

Luke 12:20-21 NKJV - "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So [is] he who lays up

treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Who then can be saved?

Wow, there's really no hope for any of us then?!?

Were these guys rich? No, maybe Matthew, maybe some others who had businesses or come from prestige

Again, this tying of works to salvation

I obey, I obtain

I work, I get rewarded

Jesus is saying:

it doesn't matter how much you work, how much good you do, you will never be perfect enough for God's holy requirements.

BUT

With God, all things are possible!

The way we're saved is God's work! God's plan. God's righteousness given to us, freely.

GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

:27-30

Peter says, Jesus, we've left all and followed you! (The rich young ruler didn't) What do we get out of the deal?

V28 is really a deep one, a study in revelation, a study about the new heavens and new earth

When God calls us to leave something behind He always has something much better in store

(Abram, Ur, his family, his wealth)

If we're willing to receive it. If we're heavenly minded. If we can trust that He has our best in mind. Our needs balanced out in sight of heaven.

1 Peter 2:9-11 NKJV - But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once [were] not a people but [are] now the

people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg [you] as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Not only will God reward us 100x for what we've left

Left a good paying job to be a disciple? Think he'll meet your needs far more than that job?

Left behind family? Think the folks in heaven who will thank you will be far more than who you left to follow?

And will inherit eternal life

Not earn. Inherit - because you are God's child now. Doing God's things because you're God's kid.

My sons dressing like me, daughters like Ashlee. I never told Jake to wear a cap backwards, he just does it

Famous verse

First last, last first

The first in this world often push others out of the way to get there - at work, through business, through cheating, through stealing

But God's kingdom is the very opposite. Those who the world hates, heaven loves.

Those who put heaven first, might be last on earth

But will be the first to be rewarded in glory