

# Matthew 19:1 - 20:28

## Day 1

### Marriage and Divorce. Read Matthew 19:1-12

1. Where did Jesus go next and what happened? 19:1,2

2. What type of opposition did Jesus face? 19:3 (See Luke 11:53-54)

**FYI:** "One rabbinical school held that the only grounds for divorce was immorality. Another school believed that anything that displeased the husband was sufficient to obtain a divorce." - The Nelson Study Bible (1608)

"In their question, the Pharisees are trying to get Jesus to side with one teaching or the other. If He sides with the lax [teaching] ...it is clear that Jesus does not take the Law of Moses seriously. If He sides with the strict...then Jesus loses face before the multitude, who generally liked access to an easy divorce. They believe they have caught Jesus on the horns of a dilemma." - David Guzik

3. What do Jesus' statements say about marriage?

- *the Creator 'made them male and female'* 19:4
- *'a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife'* 19:5a
- *'and the two will become one flesh'* 19:5b

**FYI:** "Jesus avoided the superficial scribal debate and infamous political machinations by going directly to the original authority...and set [marriage] in the context of God's original intention." - Africa Bible Commentary (1148)

"In response to a vital question about the most important of all human institutions (marriage and family), as His authority the Lord quotes the account of creation in Genesis. It is obvious that He...regarded the creation record as historically true and divinely inspired." - Henry Morris

4. How should the union between a husband and wife be regarded? 19:6a (See also Hebrews 13:4)

- How did Jesus answer the Pharisees question (19:3)? 19:6b (*What does that say about regarding marriage as just a social contract?*)

**Be united/joined/cleave** *kollao* NT:2853, "to join fast together, to glue, cement,"  
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

5. Considering the low esteem most women had in that day, how do you think Jesus' words sounded to men? To women? (See Ephesians 5:25,28)

6. What objection did the Pharisees raise concerning Jesus' answer? 19:7 (See Deuteronomy 24:1)

7. What was Jesus' explanation in:

- 19:8a
- 19:8b

**Digging Deeper**  
 What amazing calling and significance is the institution of marriage given in Ephesians 5:29-32?

8. How did Jesus limit/interpret Moses' decree? 19:9 (Cf. 5:31,32)

**FYI:** "The ancient Greek word for *sexual immorality (marital unfaithfulness)* is *porneia*...covering a wide span of sexual impropriety... To this permission for divorce, Paul adds the case of abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15)."  
 - David Guzik

9. How did the disciples' react to this level of commitment? 19:10 (How do you think their reaction compares to today's thinking?)

10. What three reasons for singleness did Jesus give? 19:12

**FYI:** "God has given marriage to people for their betterment (Gen. 2:18)...But a few either do not have normal sexual desires (they were born eunuchs or were castrated), or are able to control those desires for the furtherance of God's program on the earth (Matt. 19:12; cf. 1 Cor. 7:7-8, 26)."  
 - Wycliffe Bible Commentary

"It is important to recognize that neither Jesus nor the apostles see celibacy as an intrinsically holier state than marriage (cf. 1Tim 4:1-3; Heb 13:4), nor as a condition for the top levels of ministry (Matt 8:14; 1Cor 9:5)."  
 - Expositor's Bible Commentary

**Applying the Word:** What would you say Jesus indicated about the significance and depth of the commitment made in marriage? (See Ephesians 5:29-32) What are ways that you have seen someone hold marriage in high "honor/esteem" (their own or others)?

## Day 2

### Read Matthew 19:13-30

#### **Little Children**

**11.** Why did people bring their children to Jesus? 19:13

- Why do you think the disciples rebuked the people for doing this? (From Mark 10:14a, how did Jesus feel about their response?)

**12.** Why did Jesus want the children to come to Him? 19:14 (Why should the disciples have known better? 18:5,6)

- What did Jesus do? 19:15 (See a fuller description in Mark 10:16.) How do you imagine the parents and children felt about Jesus' words and actions?

#### **Rich Young Ruler**

**13.** What does the man's question indicate about his understanding of salvation? 19:16

- What is the problem with his question? Romans 3:20,28

#### ***Digging Deeper***

Read Paul's conclusion about trying to achieve righteousness by good works: Philippians 3:4-9.

**14.** Underline how we are made right with God and saved.

- Galatians 2:16 Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." ESV
- Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ESV

**15.** What did Jesus first ask the man to consider? 19:17a How was that in effect an answer to his question?

**FYI:** "The young man had located goodness in a human action, whereas Jesus focused on God's goodness and His good actions. These are what matter when it comes to entry into the kingdom of heaven."

- Africa Bible Commentary (1151)

"The only one who can ultimately answer the question about goodness is God. The fact that Jesus went on to answer the question is a quiet claim to deity."

- The Nelson Study Bible (1609)

16. How did Jesus answer the question about what to “do”? 19:17b

- How did Jesus answer a similar question in John 6:28,29?

17. Underline the problem with trying to do works to “obtain eternal life”?

- Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins. NASU
- Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. NIV
- Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NIV
- Galatians 3:10-11 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." NIV
- James 2:9-10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. NIV

18. How did the man try to get around this issue? 19:18a (What was he recognizing about Jesus’ response?)

- What was he trying to do? Compare Luke 10:29)

19. *The commandments that Jesus focused on are the second half of the Ten Commandments and have to do with man’s relationship with others.* How did the man feel about his behavior based on these commandments? 19:20 Do you think he was being honest? Explain.

20. How did Jesus challenge the man about his “completeness”? 19:21a (Cf. Mark 10:21)

- What amazing reward would this bring?

**FYI:** “The call to forsake everything and follow Jesus is a call to put God first in all things. It is full obedience to the first table of the law, which dealt with a man’s relation to God...In this, the wealthy questioner fails utterly. Money is his god; he is guilty of idolatry, and this is why Jesus, knowing the man’s heart, asked him to renounce his possessions.”  
- David Guzik

21. What other command did Jesus give the man? 19:21b (Consider: Where was Jesus headed? (16:21) What would the man have learned about the “way” to eternal life?)

22. What did the man's response say about his priorities in life? 19:22 (See Matthew 6:24)

- Which commandments was he unable to keep? Matthew 22:37-39; Exodus 20:3

**Applying the Word:** *How do you discern between wise stewardship of your money and holding onto riches too tightly? How can people with riches help maintain their priorities and devotion to the Lord first?*

### Day 3

Riches; Parable of the Vineyard. Read Matthew 20:1-16

#### **Riches**

23. What did Jesus maintain about riches and knowing Him? 19:23-24 What does His repetition say about this issue?

- How might riches making it more difficult for a person to give their life to God? i.e. How can it negatively affect one's energies, focus, sense of security and dependence...? (*Consider: What difference is there between being rich and pursuing riches?*)

**Digging Deeper**  
What does 1 Timothy 6:9,10 say about **pursuing** riches and **loving** money?

- Since most Americans are "rich," how can we best maintain a proper perspective about money and be good stewards of what we have?

24. How did the disciples feel about riches and works being a barrier to salvation? 19:25

- What is the only solution? 19:26

#### **Reward**

25. How did the disciples' lives contrast with the rich young man? 19:27

26. What did Jesus promise the disciples? 19:28 When will this happen? (See also Revelation 20:14)

**FYI:** "*regeneration* looks ahead to the coming kingdom promised in Daniel 7:13,14." - Nelson Study Bible (1610)

27. What rewards did Jesus promise for those who have sacrificed for Him? 9:29

28. What did Jesus say about kingdom verses earthly priorities and positions? 19:30 (Cf. 23:12)

**Parable: Workers in the Vineyard**

29. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? 20:1

**Digging Deeper**  
 What did a vineyard often represent?  
 Isaiah 5:1-7

- What agreement did the landowner make with the first workers he hired? 20:2
- What did he agree to pay the workers hired later? 20:4,5,7 (Why hadn't the 11th hour workers been working prior to this?)

**FYI:** "His offered wage of one denarius, a Roman's soldier's pay for a day, was generous indeed. The workers in the first group were more than happy to work for the generous wage." - gotquestions.org

"The third hour was about 9:00 A.M...The eleventh hour was about 5:00 P.M. There would have been only one hour left in the working day." - The Nelson Study Bible (1610)

30. At the end of the day, in what order were the workers paid? How much did they all receive? 20:8,9

- What attitude did the early workers have toward those hired later? 20:12, 15b

31. On what basis had the landowner paid the early workers? 20:13a-14

- What had motivated the landowner to pay the later workers the same? 20:14b-15a

**Digging Deeper**  
 How "fairly" does the Lord deal with us and why?  
 Ephesians 1:7,8,  
 Psalm 103:10,11

32. What does this parable illustrate? 20:16 (19:30)

**Applying the Word:** *When have you have worked harder and longer than others in your service to the Lord and felt that you were not treated fairly? How does considering the privilege of being called early and the “joy of working in the vineyard” impact that perspective?*

## Day 4

Jesus Teaches the Disciples. Read Matthew 20:17-28

### **Jesus Predicts His Death Again**

33. Where was Jesus headed? 20:17 How did He address the disciples?

- What additional information did Jesus give the disciples about His death? 20:18,19a (See 16:21; 17:22,23) How do you think they reacted to these details?

### **Greatness is Serving**

34. Who came to Jesus and why? 20:20,21 (Cf. 4:21) From Mark 10:35, who joined in this with her?

**FYI:** [Jame's and John's] "mother was probably Salome who may have been a sister of Mary (John 19:25), the mother of Jesus...If it were so it would make James and John cousins of Jesus. This would help explain Salome's forward request of Jesus on behalf of her sons "  
- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

35. What was the problem with her request? 20:21

- What *cup* was Jesus going to drink? Matthew 26:39
- What *baptism* was He going to endure? Luke 12:50

**Cup** Strong's NT:4221 poterion; a drinking-vessel; by extension, the contents thereof, i.e. a cupful (draught); figuratively, a fate: (an experience)

36. How did James and John respond to Jesus' challenge? 20:22

- What did Jesus say about Jame's and John's future? 20:23a (What happened to James? Acts 12:2)

37. Why was their request not answered? 20:23b

38. What does the other disciples' reaction say about their focus and attitudes toward each other? 20:24 About their sensitivity and understanding of what Jesus was facing?

**FYI:** "The other disciples had no better insight into Jesus' messiahship...Their minds were focused on the prospect of seniority, authority and perhaps importance and wealth. In fairness to them, they might have been trying to understand when and how they would sit on the twelve thrones alongside Jesus judging the twelve tribes of Israel (19:28)! Their theology might have been right but their timing was wrong. If the Messiah was to suffer, then it followed that His disciples too would suffer."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1153)

39. What phrases did Jesus use to describe how the Gentile world (unbelievers, non-Jewish surrounding nations) operated? 20:25

**FYI: Lord it over/exercise dominion over** NT:2634 *katakuriuo*; to lord against, i.e. control, subjugate  
"In the world, leaders are served and can command people to do their bidding. There, leadership is about power and the exploitation of power. But in Jesus' kingdom, leadership means service to those led. It is quite the opposite of what is common in human society. A leader in Jesus' kingdom must be a helper in the biblical sense of the word; that is, a person who comes alongside to enable others to achieve what they need to achieve."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1153)

40. What understanding did Jesus give the disciples about greatness? 20:26,27 (See. 18:1ff.)

41. How fully did Christ Himself model a life of service? 20:28 (What did He identify as the reason for His death?)

**Digging Deeper**  
See the service of and honors given to believers in Hebrews 11.

42. How does Christ's attitude compare to the disciples in 18:1? The rich young ruler in 19:16-22? James and John in 20:20-21?

**Applying the Word:** *What makes this teaching about serving and greatness so difficult to carry out? What should our motivation be? How can we continue to guard against service being distorted into an elevation of self or usurping of power?*