

MATTHEW 19

Jesus Comes into Judea beyond the Jordan

1 When Jesus had finished these words,¹ he departed from Galilee² and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.³ 2 And large crowds followed (ἀκολουθέω, aor.) him, and he healed (θεραπεύω, aor.) them there.⁴

Divorce, Marriage, and Singleness

3 Pharisees⁵ came to Jesus, testing (πειράζω) him and asking:

Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?⁶

4 So he answered and said:

Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female⁷ and 5 said:

On account of this a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?⁸

6 So then they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has paired together, let no man separate.⁹

7 They said to him:

¹ This phrase always signifies a new section in Matthew. The discourse on the Church is finished.

² Since Mt 4:12, Jesus has been in Galilee. Now he begins his strategic move toward Jerusalem. Jesus will cross the Jordan at Jericho and climb the hill into Jerusalem from the east.

³ This was where John the Baptist ministered. **Mt 3:13** 13 Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John was put to death by Herod over a marriage and divorce issue. **Mt 14:3-4** 3 Herod had seized John, bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, 4 because John had been saying to him, It is not lawful for you to have her.

⁴ Large crowds continue to follow Jesus outside the Jewish cities. That Jesus is healing hints there are many believers among the crowds.

⁵ After an absence, the Pharisees are back. This reminds of when the Pharisees came out to John the Baptist in Mt 3. **Mt 3:7** 7 When [John] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁶ Rabbis Hillel (liberal) and Shime'i (strict) had taught differing views on divorce.

⁷ **Ge 1:27** 27 God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them.

⁸ Jesus hereby authenticates both Genesis 1 and Genesis 2. **Ge 2:24** 24 A man shall leave his father and his mother, hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

⁹ Ultimately, Genesis supersedes Deuteronomy. God's original plan for marriage before the Fall supersedes his accommodation for marriage after the Fall.

Why then did Moses command (ἐντέλλω) to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?¹⁰

8 He said to them:

Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because of your (pl.) hardness of heart (σκληροκαρδία),¹¹ but from the beginning it has not been this way.¹² 9 But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman, except for sexual immorality (πορνεία), commits adultery.¹³

10 The disciples said to him:

If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.

11 But he said to them:

Not all men grasp (χωρέω) this statement, but those to whom it has been given. 12 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 eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to grasp this, let him grasp it.¹⁴

¹⁰ “Are you disagreeing with Moses? Who do you think you are?” This exception to the divine institution of marriage came only at the end of Deuteronomy. This was not God’s plan either in Genesis or Exodus. Israel had displayed its hard-heartedness in the wilderness so that this exception became necessary. Also, the Deuteronomy passage does not “command” divorce. It suggests divorce was already being practiced in Israel, without God’s official sanction or blessing. The main point is that one should not remarry a woman who he has previously divorced and who has remarried, not that one should get divorced. **Dt 24:1-4** 1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency (הַרְוָה) in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, 2 and if she goes and becomes another man’s wife, 3 and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, 4 then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before Yahweh.

¹¹ “An unyielding frame of mind, hardness of heart, coldness, obstinacy, stubbornness” (*BDAG*, 930).

¹² On marriage, Genesis supersedes Deuteronomy. God’s original plan for marriage before the Fall is better than his accommodating plan for Israel after her desert wanderings.

¹³ Jesus shows he is greater than Moses. He is the authoritative Rabbi. We are not told what happens to the Pharisees.

¹⁴ Marriage was almost required in Jewish culture. Many probably wondered why John and Jesus weren’t married.

Childlike Faith

13 Then children (παιδιά) were brought (προσφέρω)¹⁵ to him so that he might lay his hands on them and pray. But the disciples rebuked (προσφέρω)¹⁶ them. 14 So Jesus said: Let the children (παιδιά) alone, and do not prevent (κωλύω) them from coming (ἔρχομαι)¹⁷ to me,¹⁸ for to such is (εἰμί) the kingdom of heaven. 15 After laying his hands on them, he departed from there.

¹⁵ Bring as many people as you can to Jesus. **Mt 4:24** 24 [Jesus'] fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. **Mt 8:16** 16 That evening they brought to [Jesus] many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. **Mt 9:2** 2 Some people brought to [Jesus] a paralytic lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Take heart, my son. Your sins are forgiven. **Mt 9:32** 32 Look, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to [Jesus]. **Mt 12:22** 22 A demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to [Jesus], and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. **Mt 14:35** 35 When the men of that place recognized [Jesus], they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick. **Mt 17:16** 16 I brought [my son] to your disciples, and they could not heal him.

¹⁶ Be careful who you rebuke, or you will be rebuked. **Mt 16:22** 22 Peter took [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke him. **Mt 20:31** 31 The crowd rebuked [the two blind men], telling them to be silent. But they cried out all the more, Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!

¹⁷ ἔρχομαι is used 114 times in Matthew. Come to Jesus, get others to come to him! **Mt 2:2** 2 Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. **Mt 3:14** 14 I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? **Mt 9:10** 10 Many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. **Mt 11:28** 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Mt 13:36** 36 His disciples came to [Jesus] saying, Explain to us the parable.... **Mt 14:28-29** 28 Peter answered [Jesus], Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. 29 He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and came to Jesus.

¹⁸ Children are no triviality.

Jesus and the Rich Young Man

16 And look, one came up to him and said: Teacher, what good deed must I do (aor.) to have (aor.) eternal life? 17 But he said to him: Why do are you asking me about the good? There is one who is good. But if you desire (θέλω, pres.) to enter (aor.) into the life (εις τὴν ζωὴν), keep (aor.)¹⁹ the commandments.²⁰ 18 He said to him: Which? So Jesus said: You shall not murder (φονεύω),²¹ you shall not commit adultery (μοιχεύω),²² you shall not steal (κλέπτω), you shall not give false testimony (ψευδομαρτυρέω), 19 honor (τιμάω) your father and mother,²³ and you shall love (ἀγαπάω)²⁴ your neighbor as yourself.²⁵ 20 The young man said to him: All these I have kept.²⁶ What still am I lacking (pres.)? 21 Jesus said to him: If you desire to be perfect (τέλειος),²⁷ go sell (aor.) what you possess and give (aor.) to the poor, and

¹⁹ The aorist tense indicates one must permanently keep the commandments.

²⁰ **Le 18:5** 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules. If a person does them, he shall live by them. **Ne 9:29** 29 You warned them [Israel] in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them. **Eze 20:11** 11 I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. **Eze 20:13** 13 The house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. **Eze 20:21** 21 The children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. **Ro 10:5** 5 Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. **Ga 3:12** 12 The law is not of faith, rather: The one who does them shall live by them.

²¹ **Mt 5:21** 21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder....

²² **Mt 5:27** 27 You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery....

²³ **Ex 20:12-16** 12 Honor your father and your mother.... 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **Dt 5:16-20** 16 Honor your father and your mother.... 17 You shall not murder. 18 And you shall not commit adultery. 19 And you shall not steal. 20 And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²⁴ **Mt 5:43** 43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy....

²⁵ **Le 19:18** 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. **Mt 5:43** 43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. **Mt 22:39** 39 A second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **Mk 12:31** 31 The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. **Lk 10:27** 27 You shall love...your neighbor as yourself. **Ro 13:9-10** 9 The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this statement: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. **Ga 5:14** 14 The whole law is fulfilled in one statement: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **Jas 2:8** 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well.

²⁶ **Php 3:3-9** 3 We are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, glory in Messiah Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Messiah Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Messiah 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Messiah, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

²⁷ **Mt 5:20** 20 Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **Mt 5:48** 48 You...must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Mk 10:24** 24 Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!

you will have treasure in heaven.²⁸ And come follow (pres.) me. 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad (λυπέω, pres.), for he had great possessions.

Entering into the Kingdom

23 So Jesus said to his disciples: Truly, I say to you, with difficulty will a rich man²⁹ enter into (εἰσελεύσεται εἰς) the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle (ῥαφίς) than for a rich person to enter into (εἰσελθεῖν εἰς) the kingdom of God.³⁰ 25 Now when the disciples heard this, they were greatly amazed saying: Who then is able to be saved?³¹ 26 But Jesus looked at them and said: With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.³²

Inheriting Rewards in the Kingdom

27 Then Peter answered him and said: See, we³³ have left (aor.) everything and followed (aor.) you.³⁴ What then will we have? 28 So Jesus said to them: Truly, I say to you (pl.), in the

²⁸ **Mt 6:20** 20 Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **Lk 12:33** 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **Lk 19:8** 8 Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. **Ac 2:45** 45 They were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **Ac 4:34** 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **1 Ti 6:18-19** 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁹ **1 Co 1:26** 26 Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

³⁰ “The kingdom of heaven” and “the kingdom of God” are synonymous.

³¹ The Pharisees taught God gives wealth to those he loves. So if a wealthy person cannot make it into the kingdom, seemingly no one can (Barbieri, *BKC*, 2:65).

³² **Mt 18:3** 3 Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **Mt 19:14** 14 Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. **Jn 3:16-18** 16 God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **Jn 3:36** 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the Son [by believing in him] shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. **Jn 6:29** 29 This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom [God] has sent. **Ro 4:5** 5 To the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. **Tt 3:4-7** 4 When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Messiah our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

³³ **Mt 16:16** 16 Simon Peter replied, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. **Jn 2:11** 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

³⁴ **Mt 16:25** 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

regeneration (τῆ παλιγγενεσία) [new world],³⁵ when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you (pl.) who followed (aor.) me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging (pres.) the twelve tribes of Israel.³⁶ 29 And everyone who left (aor.)³⁷ houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or farms on account of my name will receive a hundredfold and inherit (κληρονομέω)³⁸ eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.³⁹

³⁵ Though Israel is rejecting Jesus' offer of the kingdom, the kingdom would come, with its extensive remaking of things spiritual (Is 2:3; 4:2-4; 11:9), political (Is 2:4; 11:1-5, 10-11; 32:16-18), and geographical and physical (Is 2:2; 4:5-6; 11:6-9; 35:1-2)(Barbieri, *BKC*, 2:65).

³⁶ **Lk 22:30** 30 ...That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **Re 21:14** 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **1 Co 6:2** 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

³⁷ **Mt 4:18-22** 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. **Mt 10:37** 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **Lk 14:26** 26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

³⁸ **Mt 25:34** 34 The King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

³⁹ **Mt 20:16** 16 The last will be first, and the first last. **Mt 21:31-32** 31 The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you [Jewish leaders]. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him. **Lk 13:30** 30 Look, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. **1 Co 1:28** 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are. **1 Co 4:9** 9 God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. **1 Co 15:9-10** 9 I [Paul] am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am.

Parallel Passages

Lk 18:18-30 18 A ruler asked [Jesus], Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit (κληρονομέω)⁴⁰ eternal life? 19 And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. 21 And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. 26 Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? 27 But he said, What is impossible with man is possible with God. 28 And Peter said, See, we have left our homes and followed you. 29 And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, wife, brothers, parents, or children on account of the kingdom of God 30 who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.

Mk 10:17-30 17 As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit (κληρονομέω) eternal life? 18 And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 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. 20 And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, You lack one thing. Go sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter into (εις...εισελεύσονται) the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter into (εις...εισελθεῖν) the kingdom of God!⁴¹ 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter into ([]) the kingdom of God. 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, Then who can be saved? 27 Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God. 28 Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you.⁴² 29 Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or lands on account of me and the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

⁴⁰ One must enter into the kingdom of God through faith in Messiah Jesus before one inherits eternal life and rewards. One can't inherit anything if he does not enter.

⁴¹ Mark emphasizes that it is difficult for anyone to enter into the kingdom of God, not just the rich.

⁴² The subject is no longer entering into the kingdom of God but inheriting rewards in the kingdom of God.

First Enter into the Kingdom. Then Inherit Rewards in the Kingdom (Mt 19:16-30).

To inherit rewards in the kingdom, we must first enter into the kingdom through childlike faith in Jesus, for he alone is perfectly good. Then we must decide whether we will leave everything and follow Jesus. We will inherit rewards if we do (Mt 19:16-30).

	Matthew 19	Luke 18	Mark 10	Observations
Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler	<p>Mt 19:16-22 16 And look, one came up to [Jesus] and said: Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? 17 But he said to him: Why do are you asking me about the good? There is one who is good. But if you desire to enter into the life, keep the commandments. 18 He said to him: Which? So Jesus said: You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. 20 The young man said to him: All these I have kept. What still am I lacking? 21 Jesus said to him: If you desire to be perfect, go sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. And come follow me. 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had great possessions.</p>	<p>Lk 18:18-23 18 A ruler asked [Jesus], Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. 21 And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.</p>	<p>Mk 10:17-22 17 As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? 18 And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 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. 20 And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, You lack one thing. Go sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.</p>	<p>Luke and Mark clarify the man's question is about inheriting rewards in the kingdom. Only Matthew's account mentions love for neighbor. In Matthew, the man recognizes his own lack and wants to be perfect. All accounts recognize the man wants treasure in heaven. Mark recounts that the man knelt before Jesus and that Jesus loved him.</p>
Entry into the Kingdom	<p>Mt 19:23-26 23 So Jesus said to his disciples: Truly, I say to you, with difficulty will a rich man enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle than for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God. 25 Now when the disciples heard this, they were greatly amazed saying: Who then is able to be saved? 26 But Jesus looked at them and said: With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.</p>	<p>Lk 18:24-27 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? 27 But he said, What is impossible with man is possible with God.</p>	<p>Mk 10:23-27 23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter into the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, Then who can be saved? 27 Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.</p>	<p>Jesus changes the topic to entry into the kingdom.</p>

	Matthew 19	Luke 18	Mark 10	Observations
Inheriting Rewards in the Kingdom	Mt 19:27-30 27 Then Peter answered him and said: See, we have left everything and followed you. What then is there for us? 28 So Jesus said to them: Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or farms on account of my name will receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.	Lk 18:28-30 28 And Peter said, See, we have left our homes and followed you. 29 And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, wife, brothers, parents, or children on account of the kingdom of God 30 who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.	Mk 10:28-30 28 Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you. 29 Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or lands on account of me and the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.	Peter returns to the topic raised by the rich young ruler. Only Matthew mentions the specific reward given to the Twelve. Mark adds “with persecutions.” Luke is more economical throughout.

1. Jesus and the Rich Young Man (Mt 19:16-22).

- a. **Mt 19:16** 16 And look, one came up to him and said: Teacher, what good deed must I do to have (ἔχω, aor.) eternal life?
 - (1) In this context, “having eternal life” is inheriting rewards in the kingdom, not entering into the kingdom. Eternal life is as much about quality as quantity.
 - (a) **Mt 19:21** 21 Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.
 - (2) The young man is rich now, and he wants to continue being rich in the kingdom.
 - (3) The young man assumes he enter into the kingdom. All Jews would assume that.
 - (4) Luke and Mark, writing later, clarify the ambiguity.
 - (a) **Lk 18:18** 18 And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?
 - (b) **Mk 10:17** 17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?
 - (5) Inheriting eternal life is receiving rewards in the kingdom.
 - (a) **Mt 19:29** 29 Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or lands on account of my name will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.
- b. **Mt 19:17-19** 17 But he said to him: Why do are you asking me about the good? There is one who is good. But if you desire to enter into (εἰς...εἰσελθεῖν) the life, keep the commandments. 18 He said to him: Which? So Jesus said: You shall not murder (φονεύω), you shall not commit adultery (μοιχεύω), you shall not steal (κλέπτω), you shall not give false testimony (ψευδομαρτυρέω), 19 honor (τιμάω) your father and mother, and you shall love (ἀγαπάω) your neighbor as yourself.
 - (1) Jesus hints that only he, the God-man, is perfectly good. We know this is the case.
 - (2) Jesus changes the subject from inheriting rewards in the kingdom to entering into the kingdom. Phases zero to one, not phases two to three, is the subject.
 - (3) Jesus repeats the challenge of the Torah: “If you want to enter into the kingdom, be perfectly good.”
 - (a) **Le 18:5** 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules. If a person does them, he shall live by them.

- (b) **Ro 10:5** 5 Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.
- (c) **Ga 3:12** 12 The law is not of faith, rather: The one who does them shall live by them.
- (4) The Old Testament demonstrates no one can be perfectly good, except God alone.
 - (a) **Ne 9:29** 29 You warned them [Israel] in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them.
 - (b) **Eze 20:11** 11 I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.
 - (c) **Eze 20:13** 13 The house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.
 - (d) **Eze 20:21** 21 The children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.
- (5) In other religions, one can be good enough for God. In Christianity, one can't.
- (6) This difference is one of the great proofs of Christian faith.
- (7) The realization, "There is one who is good," is the great realization.
- c. **Mt 19:20-21** 20 The young man said to him: All these I have kept. What still am I lacking (pres.)? 21 Jesus said to him: If you desire to be perfect (τέλειος), go sell (aor.) what you possess and give (aor.) to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. And come follow (pres.) me. 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad (λυπέω, pres.), for he had great possessions.
 - (1) Like Paul before his conversion, the young man is puts his confidence in the flesh.
 - (a) **Php 3:3-9** 3 We are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, glory in Messiah Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Messiah Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Messiah 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Messiah, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.
 - (2) Perfection is required to enter into the kingdom of God, yet none of us is perfect.
 - (a) **Mt 5:20** 20 Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you certainly will not enter into (οὐ μὴ εισέλθητε εἰς) the kingdom of heaven.
 - (b) **Mt 5:48** 48 You... must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
 - (c) **Mk 10:24** 24 Children, how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God!
 - (3) If anything less than perfection were allowed, Jesus' death would be unnecessary.
 - (4) The second we believe we're able to clear the bar, the bar gets raised.

- (a) Illustration: New Zealand pole jumper Eliza McCartney placed third at the 2016 Olympics.
- (5) Just as in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus raises the bar so only he can clear it.
 - (a) **Mt 5:21** 21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder....
 - (b) **Mt 5:27** 27 You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery....
 - (c) **Mt 5:43** 43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy....
- (6) As God the Son, Jesus knows how high the bar is and that only he can clear it.
- (7) We, too, must come to realize that only Jesus can clear the bar.
 - (a) **Lk 1:51-53** 51 He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

2. Entering into the Kingdom (Mt 19:23-26).

- a. **Mt 19:23-24** 23 So Jesus said to his disciples: Truly, I say to you, with difficulty will a rich man enter into (εἰσελεύσεται εἰς) the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle (ῥαφίς) than for a rich person to enter into (εἰσελθεῖν εἰς) the kingdom of God.
 - (1) It is hard for the rich to enter into the kingdom because it is hard for them to have childlike faith.
 - (a) **1 Co 1:26** 26 Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
 - (b) This is the problem of New Zealand's middle class. They think they are middle class, but they are actually rich. Their material prosperity is their curse.
 - (2) It is sad to think people will go to the lake of fire for all eternity have had prosperity in this life. What a change of circumstances!
 - (3) As recorded by Matthew, Luke, and Mark, Jesus emphasizes he is now talking about a person's crossing from phase zero to phase one.
 - (4) Also note kingdom of heaven is synonymous with kingdom of God.
 - (5) "The eye of a needle" is not a gate in Jerusalem; it's the eye of a sewing needle.
- b. **Mt 19:25-26** 25 Now when the disciples heard this, they were greatly amazed saying: Who then is able to be saved? 26 But Jesus looked at them and said: With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.
 - (1) Jews believed rich Jews would be the first to enter into the kingdom.
 - (2) The disciples' question is the right one. Notice they are engaged in inductive Bible study.
 - (a) In Matthew, Luke, and Mark, the account of the rich young ruler directly follows the account of childlike faith. This is purposeful.
 - 1. **Lk 18:9-17** 9 [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated 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, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I

- get. 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a 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 the one who humbles himself will be exalted. 15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will certainly not enter into (εἰσέλθῃ εἰς) it.
2. **Mk 10:13-16** 13 They were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter into it. 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.
- (3) Through childlike faith in the only one who is perfectly good, we may be saved.
- (a) **Mt 18:3** 3 Unless you turn and become like children, you certainly will not enter into (οὐ μὴ εἰσέλθητε εἰς) the kingdom of heaven.
- (b) **Mt 19:14** 14 Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.
- (c) **Jn 3:16-18** 16 God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
- (d) **Jn 3:36** 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the Son [by believing in him] shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- (e) **Jn 6:29** 29 This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom [God] has sent.
- (f) **Ro 4:5** 5 To the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.
- (g) **Tt 3:4-7** 4 When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Messiah our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- (4) Jews, Animists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Roman Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Atheists, Agnostics—believe in Jesus!
- (5) Jesus' death and resurrection has made the impossible possible.

3. Inheriting Rewards in the Kingdom (Mt 19:27-30).

- a. **Mt 19:27** 27 Then Peter answered him and said: See, we have left (aor.) everything and followed (aor.) you. What then will we have?
- (1) The twelve disciples have already believed in Jesus.
 - (a) **Mt 16:16** 16 Simon Peter replied, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
 - (b) **Jn 2:11** 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.
 - (c) **Jn 6:67-69** 67 Jesus said to the twelve, Do you want to go away as well? 68 Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.
 - (2) Leaving everything and following Jesus is the essence of discipleship.
 - (a) **Mt 4:18-22** 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.
 - (3) Jesus doesn't rebuke Peter. It is right for disciples to expect rewards.
 - (4) We don't enter into the kingdom by leaving everything and following Jesus.
 - (5) We don't enter into the kingdom by selling our possessions and giving to the poor.
 - (6) Leaving everything and following Jesus is an opportunity only after we have entered into the kingdom through childlike faith in Jesus.
 - (7) Not every believer will seize this opportunity. It's their loss.
 - (a) **Mt 16:25** 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
- b. **Mt 19:28** 28 So Jesus said to them: Truly, I say to you (pl.), in the regeneration (τῆ παλιγγενεσίᾳ) [new world], when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you (pl.) who followed (aor.) me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging (pres.) the twelve tribes of Israel.
- (1) There will be a regeneration, a new world. Jesus will sit on a glorious throne.
 - (a) **Tt 2:13** 13 ... Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Messiah...
 - (b) Though Israel is rejecting Jesus' offer of the kingdom, the kingdom would come, with its extensive remaking of things spiritual (Is 2:3; 4:2-4; 11:9), political (Is 2:4; 11:1-5, 10-11; 32:16-18), and geographical and physical (Is 2:2; 4:5-6; 11:6-9; 35:1-2)(Barbieri, *BKC*, 2:65).
 - (2) The twelve disciples will judge Israel in the Messianic kingdom and beyond.
 - (a) **Lk 22:30** 30 ... That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - (3) Jesus will reward the twelve disciples for their labor in the Spirit.

- (a) **Re 21:14** 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- c. **Mt 19:29** 29 And everyone who left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or farms on account of my name will receive a hundredfold and inherit (κληρονομέω) eternal life.
 - (1) We, too, may receive rewards in the regeneration.
 - (a) **1 Co 6:2** 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?
 - (2) To receive rewards, we must leave everything on a count of Jesus' name. We must leave houses and farms. We must leave brothers and sisters. We must leave fathers and mothers. We must leave children.
 - (a) **Mt 10:37** 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
 - (b) **Lk 14:26** 26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
 - (3) Wealth prevents many unbelievers from believing in Jesus. It also prevents many believers from following Jesus.
 - (4) God wants us to inherit rewards in the kingdom, and he want us to know how to inherit them.
 - (5) As believers our goal is no longer to enter into the kingdom but to inherit rewards.
 - (6) In this context, eternal life refers to quality of life, not just quantity of life.
 - (2) The new world will look very different from the present age.
 - (a) **Mt 20:16** 16 The last will be first, and the first last.
 - (b) **1 Co 1:28** 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.
 - (c) **1 Co 4:9** 9 God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.
- d. **Mt 19:30** 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.
 - (1) The new world, the kingdom of God, is not an egalitarian paradise.
 - (2) The new world will look very different from the present age.
 - (a) **Mt 20:16** 16 The last will be first, and the first last.
 - (b) **1 Co 1:28** 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.
 - (c) **1 Co 4:9** 9 God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

Discussion Questions

1. Mt 19.

- a. What is the chapter theme of Mt 19?
- b. Into what subdivisions did you divide Mt 19?
- c. Who are the characters in Mt 19?

2. Mt 19:1-2

- a. What is the significance of the phrase, “When Jesus had finished these words....” Consider Mt 7:28, 11:1, 13:53, and 26:1. Based on these words alone, should we expect another discourse or more action in Mt 19? What do we get?
- b. Where do Jesus and the disciples go now, and why is that significant? Consider Mt. 4:12.
- c. Did Jesus visit Jerusalem at all during his three years of ministry?

3. Mt 19:3-9.

- a. What are the Pharisees hoping to accomplish by asking their question?
- b. Has Jesus dealt with the subject of divorce previously in Matthew?
- c. What passages does Jesus refer the Pharisees to? What does this tell us about Jesus’ own belief about Ge 1-2?
- d. What passage do the Pharisees refer to in response?
- e. How does Jesus respond, and what point is he making?
- f. What is God’s standard for marriage?
- g. How should we deal with divorce in the church?

4. Mt 19:10-12.

- a. What does v. 10 mean? What are the disciples saying?
- b. What point is Jesus making vv. 11-12?
- c. What place does singleness have in the church?

5. Mt 19:13-15.

- a. What is so disappointing about the disciples’ actions in these verses?

6. Mt 19:16-26.

- a. What does the young man desire? What presupposition does he have about obtaining eternal life?
- b. Have we seen the concept that “only One is good” elsewhere in Matthew?
- c. How do vv. 18-19 relate to the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount?
- d. What does the young man’ question in v. 20 reveal about his life experience?
- e. Do we have to sell our possessions and give all to the poor to be saved or have treasure in heaven?
- f. Why is it difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaving?
- g. How do vv. 23-24 relate to v. 14?
- h. Why are the disciples so shocked in v. 25?
- i. What does v. 26 mean?

7. Mt 19:27-30

- a. Does Peter's question seem out of place? How does it compare with Mt 18:1?
- b. Does Jesus' response surprise you?
- c. What is "the regeneration"?
- d. What will be the future responsibility of the Twelve?
- e. Is there a difference between entering into the kingdom of heaven and inheriting eternal life?

8. Summary.

- a. What is your big takeaway from Mt. 19?

Notes

Jesus again proves he is a greater interpreter of God's righteousness than Moses. "Moses said that, but I say this."

Moses was not wrong. It is only that God made concessions through Moses because of Israel's hard heart.

It is better to stay single than to marry the wrong person.

It is worth following Jesus as a disciple, even if that means remaining single.

Singleness has a high and honored place among Christians. John, Jesus, and Paul were single.

Singleness is a legitimate option for believers today.

Those who are single must not be looked down upon by those who are married.

There are great benefits to being single.

1 Co 7:7 I wish that all men were even as I myself am.