

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first. - Matthew 19:29-30

I. A TWO-PART MESSAGE

- Matthew relates to us two interactions that teach us about the nature of God and the nature of man.

A. Lesson One:

God is the judge of what is good, not mankind. Under the Old Covenant (law), salvation was not simply about following rules, but about allowing that law to permeate one's life in such a way that it would lead to humility and self-sacrifice (Psalm 51:16-17; Joel 2:12-13).

- Only God is good. Our "goodness" will never amount to holiness or earn salvation. Outside of Christ, all our good works are tainted by our sin nature (Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:19-20).
 - In Christ, however, our works can be pleasing to God (Phil. 4:18; Heb. 6:10, 13:16).
 - If we hope to be "complete," we must let go of our idols and pursue our life in Christ (Vs. 21).

B. Lesson Two:

Those who sacrifice as their king has sacrificed will find salvation, and although they may have been meek and despised in this world, they will know the riches of God in eternity.

- Idols can block our access to God's kingdom.
- Peter asks the honest question, "What then of us, your disciples?"
- Jesus assures him that self-sacrifice is not forgotten by God, and will be rewarded. But the kingdom of God is an upside-down world (Heb. 11:6).

KNOW: Our good works do not amount to salvation, since only God is “good.” The young man needed to step from the Old Covenant to the New, and experience the joy of the Lord. The disciples of Jesus needed to be both challenged and encouraged.

DO: Leave it all and follow Jesus, the servant king.

Suggested Reading:

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

Surprised by Joy by C.S. Lewis
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Jesus, Strong and Kind by Sinclair Ferguson
(Available in the LifePoint Kid’s Library)

Next Week’s Preaching Text: Matthew 20:1-16

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Matthew 19:16-30

1. What is the “theme” in these two interactions?
2. What is the young man seeking? How does he hope to obtain it?
3. What commandments does Jesus leave out? Why, do you think?
4. Why, do you think, does Jesus ask the man to give up his wealth?
5. Why is it so hard to obtain heaven when your life is filled with riches?
6. The disciples wonder who could possibly be saved. Why?
7. Who can be saved?
8. How is “pecking order” determined in heaven? How does this impact you?