

**Matthew Bible Study 2023 – Part 3**  
**Study 1 – Marriage, Divorce and Celibacy**  
 [See also: [Mark 10:1-12](#)]

**Matthew 19:1-12**  
*(Sermon on 16-April-23)*

**Read Genesis 1:27-28**

1. What do these verses say about humankind?

*We are created in God's image [literally cut out of the same material, graven image] as male and female.*

*Therefore, we are God's image bearers.*

*When God created everything else in Days 1 to 6; He declared them to be GOOD.*

*But when it came to human beings, v31; He declared humans to be VERY GOOD.*

*We are the pinnacle of creation and given the job of being fruitful and increasing in number and populating the Earth; as well as looking after God's Creation and Creatures.*

*In a nutshell; we are God's ambassadors; and remember He is a Holy God. So, we are meant to be Holy (Lev 11:44)*

**Read Genesis 2:18-24**

2. What's the problem for the man in verse 18?

*Man is alone and God sees that it is not good for him to be alone; so, God says He will make the man a suitable helper.*

3. How is marriage described in verse 24?

*Marriage is described as a man leaving his parents and being united to his wife; and they become one flesh.*

*United here means = old fashioned word cleave (stay close) – it literally means “stuck together” – like superglue!*

*And one flesh = literally one body. So instead of two people; it's like their one person.*

*It's fair to say that that doesn't sound like a couple that should break up.*

**Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

4. How would you describe the rules for divorce here?

*The rules say if a man becomes displeased with his wife and finds something indecent, he can write a certificate of divorce.*

*The word for displeased means literally she is unpleasant, without favour, without grace or charm.*

*The word for indecent means literally unclean or shameful.*

*The man can divorce her on these terms and if she marries another man and he dislikes her (literally hates her like an enemy) he can divorce her too; but she can't go back to the first husband as she is seen as being defiled; presumably because the first marriage was meant to be for keeps.*

*Some observations on this rule:*

- a. The rule is male dominated; it's all about what the man wants*
- b. The rule only describes how the woman is offensive to the man; the assumption being, the man is always right.*
- c. The rule is open to being used to divorce a woman for anything "like burning your toast"*

### **Read Matthew 19:1-12**

5. What question do the Pharisees ask Jesus in verse 3? What's their motive?

*The Pharisees ask Jesus "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"*

*V3 says they want to test Jesus. We'd have to say there seems to be an inconsistency between God's description of marriage in Genesis 2 and the ease of divorce in Deuteronomy 24.*

*Divorce was a controversial topic in Jesus' day, with two main schools of thought, centered around two of its most famous proponents. The first was the school of Rabbi Shammai (a more strict and unpopular view) and second was the school of Rabbi Hillel (a more lax and popular view).*

*In theory, the Jews of that day had a high ideal of marriage. Yet they had a low view of women. "The Jews had very low views of women...A wife was bought, regarded as property, used as a household drudge, and dismissed at pleasure." (Bruce) Today, men also have a low view of women; tragically, women also have a low view of women, and often reject the idea that women should be different than men in any way.*

*Their low view of women meant that their high ideal of marriage was constantly compromised, and those compromises were made into law, as with the thinking of Rabbi Hillel. Under the thinking of Hillel, "a man could divorce his wife if she spoiled his dinner, if she spun, or went with unbound hair, or spoke to men in the streets, if she spoke disrespectfully of his parents in his presence, or if she was a brawling woman whose voice could be heard in the next house. Rabbi Akiba even went the length of saying...that a man could divorce his wife if he found a woman whom he liked better and considered more beautiful." (Barclay)*

*"Perhaps, too, they hoped that Jesus would say something that would entangle him in the Herod-Herodias affair so that he might meet the Baptist's fate." (Carson)*

*The question from the Pharisees boils down to what Deuteronomy 24:1 means by "indecent" or "uncleanness"?*

*The school of Rabbi Shammai understood that uncleanness meant sexual immorality, and said this was the only valid reason for divorce. The school of Rabbi Hillel understood uncleanness to mean any sort of indiscretion; even to the point where for some rabbis, burning a husband's breakfast was considered valid grounds for divorce.*

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6. How does Jesus answer them in verses 4 to 6? Where is Jesus getting His answer from?

*Rather than debate opinions on two schools of thought; Jesus goes back to Scripture.*

*He focused on marriage rather than divorce.*

*Jesus' replies that from the beginning God created male and female for marriage (so much for same sex marriage!) and the man leaves his parents and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. And because they are now one flesh, instead of two; and it's God's purpose for them to be joined and stay together; human beings should try to break that relationship apart. It is God ordained.*

*What God has joined together: Jesus also reminded the Pharisees that marriage is spiritually binding before God. Marriage is not merely a social contract; and as God has joined, He expects man to honor what He has joined and to keep the marriage together.*

*Therefore, marriage is an exclusive, faithful, life-long commitment between a man and a woman.*

*The idea that they shall become one flesh includes the sexual union, but also goes far beyond it. "Marriage is given, not that two people should do one thing together, but that they should do all things together." (Barclay) "Be glued to her." (Trapp)*

*The two shall become one flesh also prohibits polygamy, and shows that this was God's intention from the beginning. Though polygamy was allowed under the Old Testament, it was never God's best — and men should have known so from looking at Genesis 2:24.*

7. What follow up question to the Pharisees ask in verse 7?

*Quite rightly the Pharisees point out the discrepancy between God's view of marriage and the divorce rules of Deuteronomy 24; where a man could give his wife a certificate of divorce.*

8. How does Jesus answer them in verses 8?

*Jesus answers them by seeing that Moses permitted (not commanded) divorce because their hearts were hard; but that's not the way God planned or designed marriage in the beginning. It was as if Jesus said this: "Here is the ideal; and here is the allowance of God when human sinfulness and hardness of heart has made the ideal unobtainable."*

9. What does Jesus mean in verse 8 by "from the beginning"? What does that say about marriage?

*"From the beginning" means from the time of creation and from the first marriage between Adam and Eve. This says that God is FOR marriage.*

*Marriage is God's institution and not human's institution; therefore, it's fair to say, that God's rules apply!*

10. What teaching does Jesus give in verse 9?

*Jesus says anyone who divorces his wife and then remarries, is committing adultery; with the exception of sexual immorality. The Greek Word used for sexual immorality is "porneia" and it's where we get pornography from. The word covers: adultery; fornication; homosexuality; lesbianism; intercourse with animals; intercourse with close relatives;*

11. What conclusion do the disciples make in verse 10?

*The disciples understood Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce clearly. They understood that it was not a commitment to be entered into quickly or lightly, and considered that since marriage is so binding before God, then maybe it is better not to marry.*

12. What is Jesus' point in verse 11?

*Jesus recognized that celibacy (abstaining from marriage and sexual relations) is good for some, but only for the one who is able to accept it (such as Jesus Himself).*

13. What is Jesus' point in verse 12?

*Jesus' uses the term "eunuch" which means a castrated human male. Eunuchs were often used as superintendents/guards of harem's – and would thus be uninclined for sexual relations and therefore safe to be guards.*

*In Greek the word can also be used for someone who voluntarily abstains from marriage.*

*Jesus gave three types of eunuchs:*

- a. Those BORN without the capacity for sex or marriage*
- b. Those who were MADE by others to not have the capacity for sex or marriage*
- c. Those who CHOOSE to live without sex and marriage for the sake of the Kingdom – so that they can devote more time to the Lord's work. Those in this category need to have peace about their celibacy – both physically and spiritually; it should not be a consistent torment to them.*

**Ponder:** What happens if a marriage ends due to some other circumstance other than death or adultery? For example: insanity; domestic violence; emotional abuse; desertion etc. (cf. John 13:34-35; 1 John 1:9)

*In the case of a marriage ending in divorce which is not due to the exception of porneia that Jesus gave. John 13:34-35 says we are called to love one another as Christ loves us; by this people will know we are Jesus' disciples. 1 John 1:9 also tells us that: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"*

*God tells us to repent of whatever sin is there and then to move on. For example: If someone is in their second marriage after wrongfully divorcing their first spouse, and they now become a Christian, it doesn't mean they must now leave their second spouse and go back to their first, trying to undo the past. As the Lord has called you, walk in that place right now (1 Cor 7:17).*

**Optional read:** To find out what King David did after his adulterous affair with Bathsheba, read Psalm 51. What do you find?

*In Psalm 51 David confesses his adultery with Bathsheba.*

*This Psalm gives a heartfelt confession of David's sin and is a great example of how seriously we should take our sin and rebellion against God; and what we should do with it.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Step – Acknowledge God’s unfailing love and mercy*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Step – Clearly identify and confess the sin/offence committed and say sorry*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Step – Ask God (through the blood of Jesus) to cleanse us of our sin*

*4<sup>th</sup> Step – Ask God (through His Spirit) to change/renew our hearts to be faithful*

*5<sup>th</sup> Step – Tell others about God’s amazing love, mercy and forgiveness (through Jesus)*

### **Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

14. What additional teaching does Paul give here?

*Wives are not to separate from husbands – but if they do, they are to remain unmarried or be reconciled. A husband must not divorce his wife.*

*In the case where a couple is unevenly yoked; where one of the couple is an unbeliever; they are to remain together, if willing, and in doing so, the unbelieving wife/husband may become a believer.*

*If, however, the unbeliever leaves; they are to let them go.*

### **Read Malachi 2:16**

15. What does this verse say about divorce?

*NIV – “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.*

*NKJV - “For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore, take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.”*

*It’s clear that God is FOR marriage and AGAINST divorce; because the one who divorces is going against the purpose of marriage; instead of loving and protecting, they are hating and hurting. God requires faithfulness, not unfaithfulness.*

### **Read Ephesians 5:22-32**

16. What marriage picture are we given here?

*The marriage picture is where Jesus is the Bridegroom and His Church is the Bride. How did Jesus demonstrate His love for His Bride/Wife; He died for His Bride/Wife – showing sacrificial love.*

17. What are wives meant to do in marriage?

*Wives are to submit to their husbands as they would submit to their husbands.*

*Because a husband is head of his wife, as Jesus is head of His wife, the Church.*

*This will be easy for the wife, IF, the husband does what he is supposed to do in the next question.*

18. What are husbands meant to do in marriage?

*Husbands are to LOVE their wives, just as Christ loved the Church – He gave Himself and died for the Church. So, a husband is to love his wife – with a TO DIE FOR love!*

*The husband is to love, nourish and cherish his wife – just as Jesus loves, nourishes and cherishes His Church.*

*If the husband loves like that – his wife will have no troubled submitting and following her husband's lead and will follow him to the moon and back. If, however, the husband does not love like Jesus loves; the wife will not be able to follow him to the mailbox!*

#### **Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-4**

19. How does this relate to marriage and adultery?

*Paul sees the Church in Corinth as being betrothed to marry Christ and Paul has been influential in this relationship. Paul, therefore, does not want them to be unfaithful in their relationship with Jesus and be deceived of a false Gospel (like Eve was deceived by the Satan/Serpent).*

*This passage relates to the marriage between Jesus (Bridegroom) and the Church (Bride) and speaks of "spiritual" adultery.*

#### **Read Revelation 21:1-2**

20. What is being described here?

*In John's Vision. He sees a new Heaven and a new Earth.*

*In this vision, John sees the New Jerusalem (the people of God/the Church of believers) coming down from Heaven, prepared as Bride and adorned for her husband (Jesus – the Bridegroom).*

*So, marriage is a picture of:*

- a. The faithful, exclusive, forever marriage of God to His people*
- b. The faithful, exclusive, forever marriage of Jesus to His Church/Believers*
- c. The Marriage in Heaven of Jesus and the Believers*

#### **Read Revelation 21:9-10**

21. What is being described here?

*An angel showing John the ultimate marriage – the bride of the Lamb (the great Holy City of Jerusalem – which is symbolic of God's people) and the Lamb Himself (which is Jesus – the Bridegroom)*

**Optional Challenge:** List some Old Testament passages that describe God in a marriage to His people and His people committing adultery.

*God's marriage covenant with Israel – Ezekiel 16:8-14; 16:59-60 and Jeremiah 31:32*

*God as Israel's husband – Isaiah 54:5; Hosea 2:7; Joel 1:8*

*Israel's adultery – Jeremiah 3:20; 2:32; Ezekiel 16:32-34; Hosea 1:2; 9:1*

*Israel's alienation from God is likened to a divorce – Hosea 2:2; Isaiah 50:1; Jeremiah 3:6-10*

*God calls His bride to return – Jeremiah 3:12-14; Hosea 3:1-3; Isaiah 54:6-8; Hosea 2:14*  
*The renewed relationship – Isaiah 62:4-5; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 16:62; Hosea 2:16, 19-20*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 19:1-12**

*Marriage is an exclusive, faithful, life-long relationship between a man and a woman; and is a picture of our relationship with God and His Son Jesus*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?

- ➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?
- a. *God is FOR marriage – something He instituted in the beginning with Adam and Eve*
  - b. *Marriage is meant to be an exclusive, faithful, life-long (till death do us part) union.*
  - c. *Focusing on our marriages rather than entertaining the idea of divorce, will keep marriages together!*
  - d. *Divorce is never commanded, only permitted, because of hard-hearts.*
  - e. *Pray for our marriages*
  - f. *Celibacy and singleness are good for those who can accept it; and allow them to spend more time/effort in doing the Lord's work*
  - g. *We need to confess our unfaithfulness in our relationships with each other and our unfaithfulness in our relationship with God*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God for the gift of marriage. Ask God to help us to be faithful in all our relationships. Ask God to help us to be faithful in our relationship with Him.

**Study 2 – What’s required to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven      Matthew 19:13-30**  
**(Sermon on 23-April-23)**

**Read Matthew 19:13-15 [See also: Mark 10:13-16 and Luke 18:15-17]**

1. Why do you think Jesus is talking about children here (cf. Matthew 19:1-12)

*In Matthew 19:1-12, Jesus answered questions on marriage and divorce. Having children is one of the purposes of getting married (Gen 1:22 – be fruitful and multiply). Also, children can be severely affected by divorce.*

2. For what reason are children brought to Jesus?

*The children are brought to Jesus to be blessed. Literally to lay his hands on them. The laying on of hands is used Biblically as a way to bestow blessing on another (Acts 6:6, Acts 8:17, Acts 9:17, 1 Timothy 5:22, 2 Timothy 1:6).*

*It is marvelous that in the midst of Jesus’ teaching on marriage, parents brought their children to be blessed. Today, parents should still bring their children to Jesus; He wants to bless them and welcome them into the kingdom of heaven.*

*In Luke’s Gospel, the children are described as babies.*

3. How does the disciples’ response to the children differ from Jesus’ response?

*The disciples rebuked the people bringing the children to Jesus.*

*In their view, Jesus didn’t have time for children; He had more important things to do!*

*But Jesus turned things upside down as usual.*

*In Mark’s Gospel, it says Jesus was indignant at the disciples turning the children away!*

*But Jesus says: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

*This also shows us something remarkable about Jesus’ character. He was the kind of man that children liked, and children are often astute judges of character.*

4. **Ponder:** Why are we told about children here?

*We are told about children here because:*

*a. A logical extension to the topic of marriage and divorce and how children are affected*

*b. Most likely because Jesus is about to have an encounter with a rich young man in the following verses (16 to 22) – and getting into the Kingdom is achieved by accepting things like a little child does.*

5. From Matthew, Mark and Luke’s readings; what’s required to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven?

*Matthew says: “The Kingdom of God “belongs” to such as these little children*

*Mark and Luke say: “Anyone who does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it”*



*Children are not only for blessing; they are also examples of how we must enter the kingdom with a childlike faith, not with a childish faith. We must come to God with a faith that trusts God just like a little child trusts his father — and leave all the problems up to daddy.*

*The emphasis isn't that children are humble and innocent, because sometimes they aren't. But the emphasis is on the fact that children will receive and don't feel they have to earn everything they get. Children are in a place where often all they can do is receive. They don't refuse gifts out of self-sufficient pride. So, we must receive the kingdom of God as a little child — because we surely will by no means enter it by what we do or earn.*

**Read Matthew 19:16-22 [See also: Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23]**

6. What key question is asked in verse 16?

*Jesus is asked what “good thing” must be done to get eternal life.*

*In Mark and Luke's version, the young man refers to Jesus as “Good teacher”*

*The focus of the man's question is what shall I do. He thought eternal life was a matter of earning and deserving, not of relationship. As he bowed down on his knees in front of Jesus, the mere closeness of that relationship made him closer to salvation than anything he could do. He didn't want Jesus to be his savior; he wanted Jesus to show him the way to be his own savior.*

*The man really didn't know who he was also. He thought that he was righteous and didn't really know the kind of person he was. When you don't know who Jesus really is, you probably don't know who you are either. And knowing Jesus comes first.*

7. Why does Jesus speak about being “good” in verse 17?

*The title of “Good Teacher” was never applied to other Rabbis in Jesus' day because it implied sinlessness, a complete goodness. Jesus and everyone else recognized that He was being called by a unique title. “There is no instance in the whole Talmud of a rabbi being addressed as ‘Good Master/Teacher.’” (Plummer, cited in Geldenhuys) Only God was called good by ancient rabbis.*

*In Mark and Luke's version, Jesus says to the young man “Why do you call me good, no one is good, except God.*

*This was not Jesus denying His deity. Instead, He invited the young man to reflect upon it. It is as if Jesus said, “do you really know what you are saying when you call Me good?”*

8. What answer does Jesus give at the end of verse 17? What problem do we have with that answer?

*Jesus' answer was: “If you want to enter life, keep the commandments”*

*Jesus' answer to the man's question was straightforward. If you want to gain eternal life by your own doing, you must keep the commandments — all of them, and keep them in the fullest sense.*

*“He would needs be saved by doing, Christ sets him that to do which no man living can do, and so shows him his error.” (Trapp)*

*The problem for all of us is; we can't keep all the commandments in the fullest sense and so we can gain eternal life of our own doing.*

*Jesus did not introduce the law to show the young man how to be saved but to show him that he needed to be saved. The law is a mirror which shows what we are (James 1:22ff).*

9. When asked which commandments to keep; which ones does Jesus say? What is Jesus' focus?

*The young man asked “which commandments” but the commandments cannot be separated; they must all be kept. As James 2:10 – breaking the law on one point, means guilty.*

*Jesus gives the last six commandments. His focus is on the commandments which primarily deal with the relationship between human beings.*

10. What's the young man's response and follow up question in verse 20?

*The young man's response is that he has kept all the commandments that Jesus listed. His follow up question is: “What do I still lack?”*

*It is fair to ask if this man really had kept these commandments. It is likely that he actually did keep them in a way that made him righteous in the eyes of men, in the sense that Paul could say concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless in Philippians 3:6. But he certainly did not keep them in the full and perfect sense which Jesus spoke of in the Sermon on the Mount.*

*Mark 10:21 tells us that in response to the man's answer, Jesus loved him. Jesus had compassion on this man, who was so misguided as to think that he really could justify himself before God.*

*The fact that the young man asked “What do I still lack?” shows the man had not kept the commandments perfectly; because he knew there was something still lacking/missing in his life; reflecting something missing in his relationship with God.*

*“The exemplary life plus the dissatisfaction meant much... ‘I am on the right road, according to your teaching; why then do I not attain the rest of the true, godly life?’” (Bruce)*

11. What additional requirement does Jesus give in verse 21?

*Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

*This is a call to follow the first four commandments and love God before anything and everyone else. The young man loved his riches and possession ahead of God. Jesus calls the young man to forsake everything and follow Jesus and put God first.*

*This is NOT a call for everyone to forsake all their money/possessions. This young man had to give it up because it was an obstacle in his relationship with God.*

*Some people might do more good in the world by making wealth and sharing it and showing the love of Jesus. For the young man, it was a stumbling block. He loved his wealth so much.*

*We may make two mistakes here. The one is to believe this applies to everyone, when Jesus never made this a general command to all who would follow Him, but especially to this one rich man whose riches were clearly an obstacle to his discipleship. Instead, many rich people can do more good in the world by continuing to make money and using those resources for the glory of God and the good of others. The second mistake is to believe this applies to no one, when there are clearly those today for whom the best thing, they could do for themselves spiritually is to radically forsake the materialism that is ruining them.*

*Yet we notice that Jesus simply called this man to be His disciple, in saying, "Follow Me." He used similar language in calling many of His disciples (Matthew 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; Mark 2:14). Jesus simply called this man to be His follower; but for this man it meant leaving behind the riches he had set his heart upon.*

## **12. Why did the young man go away sorrowful in verse 22?**

*In this, the rich young man failed utterly. Money was his god; he was guilty of idolatry. This is why Jesus, knowing the man's heart, asked him to renounce his possessions.*

*The young man failed the commandments test: "He would be saved by works; yet he would not carry out his works to the full of the law's demand. He failed to observe the spirit both of the second and the first table. He loved not his poor brother as himself; he loved not God in Christ Jesus with all his heart and soul." (Spurgeon)*

*The principle remains: God may challenge and require an individual to give something up for the sake of His kingdom that He still allows to someone else. There are many who perish because they will not forsake what God tells them to.*

*"And what was this great wealth in comparison of peace of conscience, and mental rest? Besides, he had unequivocal proof that these contributed nothing to his comfort, for he is now miserable even while he possesses them! And so will every soul be, who puts worldly goods in the place of the supreme God." (Clarke)*

*With all his commendable qualities, the young man still did not truly love God with ALL his heart. Possessions were his god. He was unable to obey the command "Go and sell... come and follow"*

**13. Ponder:** What's the point of this story?

*The young man loved his wealth so much, ahead of God and his fellow humans. Money was his god. It makes us ask ourselves: "Is there some god we have other than God/Jesus?"*

**Read Matthew 19:23-30 [See also: Mark 10:23-31 and Luke 18:24-30]**

**14.** What illustration does Jesus use to show how easy or not it is to enter the Kingdom of God?

*Jesus uses the illustration of a camel passing through the eye of a needle.*

*The illustration is meant to be a) a little humorous and b) for us to see that it is impossible.*

*"The camel, the largest common animal, trying to squeeze through the smallest imaginable hole." (France)*

*One problem with riches is that they encourage a spirit of false independence, very much like the church of Laodicea: "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing" (Revelation 3:17).*

**15.** What cultural stumbling block is behind the disciples' astonishment and question in v25?

*The great amazement of the disciples was based on the assumption that riches were always a sign of God's blessing and favor. See Deuteronomy 26-28 on blessings and curses.*

*They had probably hoped that their following of Jesus would make them rich and influential, and prominent leaders in His Messianic government. "In a culture where wealth was regarded as a sign of God's blessing and where a religious teacher was therefore expected to be at least moderately wealthy, the lifestyle of Jesus and his disciples was conspicuously different." (France)*

**16.** What reassurance does Jesus give in verse 26?

*"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

*God's grace is enough to save the rich man; we have the examples of people like Zacchaeus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas. These all were rich men still able to put God first, not their riches.*

*"Jesus is not saying that all poor people and none of the wealthy enter the kingdom of heaven. That would exclude Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to say nothing of David, Solomon, and Joseph of Arimathea." (Carson)*

17. What question does Peter pose in verse 27?

*Peter's question is basically a blunt one "We've left everything to follow you; what do we get for following you?"*

*"What Peter said was true, but it was not wisely spoken. It has a selfish, grasping look...After all, what have any of us to lose for Jesus compared with what we gain by him?" (Spurgeon)*

18. What wonderful promise does Jesus make to His disciples in verse 28?

*Jesus tells of special honor for the disciples: you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. The disciples will have a special role in the future judgment, probably in the sense of administration in the millennial Kingdom.*

*As well, the apostles had the honor of helping to provide a singular foundation for the church (Ephesians 2:20), and have a special tribute in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14).*

19. What wonderful promise does Jesus make to all of His followers in verse 29? What might that look like practically, in reality, for us in our Church Family?

*But there will be universal honor for all who sacrifice for Jesus' sake; whatever has been given up for Him will be returned to us a hundred times over — in addition to everlasting life.*

*Personally – as an only child with both parents with the Lord; in my church family, I have a 100 mums and dads; a 100 brothers and sister; I have been blessed immensely in so many ways by church family. Jesus keeps His promises!*

20. What does Jesus mean in verse 30 by **"But many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first."**?

*In the previous words, Jesus promised that those who sacrificed for His sake and the sake of His kingdom would be rewarded. Then He said that though they would be rewarded, it would be different than man usually expects; because we usually believe that the first will be first and the last will be last. The parable in the following chapter will illustrate this principle.*

*"Jesus lays it down that there will be surprises in the final assessment... it may be that those who were humble on earth will be great in heaven, and that those who were great in this world will be humbled in the world to come." (Barclay)*

*"You remember the old Romish legend, which contains a great truth. There was a brother who preached very mightily, and who had won many souls to Christ, and it was revealed to him one night, in a dream, that in heaven he would have no reward for all that he had done. He asked to whom the reward would go; and an angel told him that it would go to an old man who used to sit on the pulpit stairs, and pray for him. Well, it may be so, though it is more likely that both*

would share their Master's praise. We shall not be rewarded, however, simply according to our apparent success." (Spurgeon)

### Read Exodus 20:1-17

21. How does this passage relate to Matthew 19:13-30?

*The Old Testament passage from Exodus 20 lists the commandments – and relates to Matthew 19:13-30 as Jesus mentions these are the commandments that the young man should keep. The commandments can be divided into two sections: a) first four relate to loving God and b) last six relate to loving each other. By hanging on to his wealth and loving it so much; the young man was NOT loving God first and he was NOT loving his fellow brothers/sisters who were in need. Therefore, like all of us, the young man was unable to keep the commandments perfectly. And like all of us, needed Jesus, who can keep all the commandments perfectly.*

### What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 19:13-30**

*Entry into the Kingdom of Heaven is having a childlike faith – trusting Jesus for all things – and not trusting in other things/people – as the rich young man did!*



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?  
Be rich towards God and others!



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. *It is important for us to bring little children to Jesus – not only to be blessed, but to come to know, love and follow Jesus!*
- b. *We need to receive Jesus like a child – accept the gift of Jesus without earning it – accept Jesus without doubting – just simple child-like faith in Jesus*
- c. *We can't DO anything to get to Heaven; we can't keep all the commandments, and therefore can't get eternal life through our OWN doing!*
- d. *What obstacle is in the way in our relationship with God/Jesus? Do we need to forsake ("give up") to follow Jesus?*
- e. *Are we putting God/Jesus first in our lives?*
- f. *Be rich towards God and towards others!*
- g. *Trust and obey Jesus!*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**v26 - "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

**Finish in prayer:** Ask God to help us have the accepting faith of child, so that we can love, know and follow Jesus. Ask God to help us love and obey His teaching and His will for us.