

Behold Your King!

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

Hard Sayings from the King

Matthew 19-20

Lesson 15

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

April 8, 2012

The Gospel According to Matthew

- ▶ Presentation of Jesus Christ
 - Fulfillment of the Old Testament
 - Person of Christ
 - Work of Christ
- ▶ Preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Fulfillment of the Old Testament
 - The doctrine of salvation
 - Entering the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Life in the Kingdom of Heaven
- ▶ A coming Kingdom of Heaven on earth

The Gospel According to Matthew

- ▶ Presentation of the King
- ▶ Preparation for the Kingdom
- ▶ Transition point: Matthew 16:21

Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven

- ▶ Aspire to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven!
- ▶ Matthew 18:1-4 – Humble like a child
- ▶ Matthew 20:26-28 – Serving like a slave
- ▶ Hard sayings

Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven

- Avoid offense (18:5-6)
- Avoid sin – prefer personal injury (18:7-9)
- Not despise the children of the Heavenly Father (18:10-14)
- Restoration of a sinning brother (18:15-20)
- Forgive as one greatly forgiven (18:21-35)
- Marriage and divorce (19:1-12)
- Do not hinder the little children (19:13-15)
- Love Christ more than anything (19:16-30)
- Submission to the Father (20:1-16)
- Death of Christ (20:17-19)

Let the little children come to Me (19:13-15)

- ▶ An illustration in Matthew 18:1-4
- ▶ A real event in Matthew 19:13-15
- ▶ Jesus came to save children – helpless – not great!
- ▶ Emphasis upon the strength and glory of God

How to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (19:16-30)

▶ Salvation:

- eternal life (19:16)
- Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God (19:23-24)
- Who can be saved? (19:25)

▶ Salvation requires perfection (19:17, 21)

- Personal righteousness
- Forsake all and follow Jesus Christ
- Personal inability – out of reach of human effort
- Possible only with God

How to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (19:16-30)

- ▶ Salvation is a future hope and present reality
 - The Kingdom of God “in the new world” (19:28)
 - Loss for Christ’s sake is great gain (19:29)
 - Eternal life (19:29)
- ▶ Greatness by “leastness” – by God’s power

The Grace of God (20:1-16)

- ▶ “Do you begrudge my generosity?” (20:15)
- ▶ The same reward for different work
- ▶ The Master determines “what is right” (20:4)
- ▶ Only understood by the Cross – all are “over-paid”
- ▶ Greatness by “leastness” – by God’s grace

The death of Christ (20:17-19)

- ▶ The Son of Man – God in the flesh
 - Humbled and serving
- ▶ Exalted by God – the path to greatness
 - Humble in accepting the way of God
 - Serving God and serving God's people
- ▶ 1 Peter 4:13 – rejoice to share the sufferings of Christ

Marriage and Divorce (19:1-12)

- ▶ Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?
- ▶ The Biblical doctrine of marriage – Genesis 2:20b-25
- ▶ What God joins together, no man may separate
- ▶ Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church
 - By command: Ephesians 5:22-33
 - By figure: Revelation 19:6-10
- ▶ The answer: it is not lawful to divorce at all!

Marriage and Divorce (19:1-12)

Leviticus 21:7,14; 22:13

Numbers 30:9

Deuteronomy 22:19-29; 24:1-4

Isaiah 50:1

Jeremiah 3:1, 8

Ezekiel 44:22

Malachi 2:16

Matthew 1:19; 5:31-32; 19:1-12

Mark 10:1-12

Luke 16:18

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Divorce in the Law of Moses

- ▶ Moses permitted divorce (Matthew 19:7-8)
- ▶ Divorce is permitted because of the hardness of hearts
- ▶ Divorce permitted under the Law
 - Leviticus 22:13; Numbers 30:9
 - Deuteronomy 24:1-4
- ▶ Divorce not permitted under the Law of Moses
 - Deuteronomy 22:13-19
 - Deuteronomy 22:28-29

Divorce in the New Covenant Era

- ▶ Jesus acknowledged that it does occur
- ▶ Jesus re-affirmed the creation marriage standard
- ▶ Matthew 19:9 – “exception clause”
- ▶ New Covenant standard is higher than the Old Covenant

Marriage after Divorce under the Law

- ▶ Recognized but limited (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- ▶ Not permitted in some cases – priests may not marry a divorced woman (Leviticus 21:7, 14; Ezekiel 44:22)

Marriage after Divorce under the New Covenant

- ▶ Mark 10:11 – marriage after divorce is adultery
- ▶ Luke 16:18 – marriage after divorce is adultery
- ▶ Matthew 5:31 – marriage of divorced woman is adultery
- ▶ Matthew 19:9 – “except for sexual immorality”
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 – no divorce
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 – the unequal yoke exception
- ▶ Romans 7:2-3 – only free to marry after death

Is it better not to marry?

- ▶ Disciples understood the permanence of marriage despite difficulties that may occur
- ▶ . . . for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven

Biblical Doctrine of Marriage

- ▶ Marriage is an act of God for life
- ▶ Divorce permitted for adultery (?)
- ▶ Separation accepted if unsaved spouse departs
- ▶ Remarriage denied – one possible exception?
- ▶ Old Testament examples: Hosea and Israel

Hard Sayings from the King

- ▶ The need for spiritual sight – “Have mercy on us!”
- ▶ Humility and service – in marriage or singleness
- ▶ The pursuit of greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven