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