



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's People!

Matthew 19:13-30

Message #54 of 80 – S1087

Sermon given on March 10, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's People!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 19**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's People!**
- The Bible teaches that God is love.
- That means that everything He does is motivated by and demonstrates His love.
- Because God is perfect and holy, and we are not we don't always understand how what He does is an expression of love.
- Thankfully the gospels give us practical examples of how God loves as we look at how Christ Jesus, God the Son interacts with people.
- The first group we see in our text is parents and their children.
- **Matthew 19:13-15**
- These parents are bringing their children to Jesus because they believe He has the power and authority to bless their children.
- Believing parents still impart blessings to their children when they bring them to Jesus, either through their godly lives, or in prayer.
- 'the disciples rebuked them' – It is possible the disciples are just trying to protect Jesus from being overwhelmed.
- Jesus didn't need their protection.
- Jesus blesses the children which would also bless the parents.
- Then the next person comes running.
- **Matthew 19:16**
- This account is also recorded in Mark and Luke's gospels.
- By comparing all three we learn that the 'one' is a rich young ruler who came running to Jesus and knelt down.
- 'Teacher' – He wants to know what he can do so that he inherits eternal life.

- This man is admitting that he doesn't know the way to eternal.
 - With all his wealth, position, and power he had no peace or confidence in his eternal future.
 - This is often the case with people who put their hopes in someone or something other than Christ.
 - At some point, they realize or at least suspect there is something missing and that the thing that is missing is very important.
 - This is why we teach the way we do.
 - God's Word empowered and enlivened by the Spirit of God has the power to reach into people's hearts and challenge them to examine what they believe.
 - 'What good thing shall I do...' The rich young ruler believed the way to heaven was by doing good.
 - This is still a common belief by many.
 - They think if their good outweighs their bad that God will let them into heaven.
 - Jesus will challenge this wrong thinking.
 - **Matthew 19:17**
 - This is the response every Jewish rabbi would give.
 - **Matthew 19:18-21**
 - This is a test of the rich young ruler's love of God and others.
 - It was a test to see if he trusted God.
 - Jesus said there would always be poor people in the world.
 - And then Jesus inspired John to write about rich people and their behavior toward poor believers (**1 John 3:17**).
- But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**
- One of the ways we prove that we love God is through our giving to the needs of the poor.
 - The rich young ruler seems sincere in his question, but Jesus knows what is in his heart.
 - The man's sincerity is based on wrong ideas and priorities.
 - Jesus is challenging him to examine his heart and priorities.
 - Is he willing to give up everything to follow Jesus?
 - Is he willing to follow and obey Jesus no matter where it leads him?

- Does the promise of heaven fill his heart with more joy and pleasure than the fleeting pleasures of worldly possessions?
- Does the desire to follow Christ exceed the desire for things?
- Was he willing to dethrone the things of this world like wealth and possessions, or fame and reputation, to place Christ in his rightful on the throne of his heart?
- These are questions that every believer should answer on a regular basis.
- It has been said, “If Christ is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all!”
- That is not what the rich young ruler was hoping to hear.
- **Matthew 19:22**
- He was sad because he was leaving with his question unanswered.
- He wanted to know how to get to heaven and keep his wealth.
- The problem was not this man’s great possessions – it was his attitude toward those possessions.
- They stood between him and God.
- Jesus then turns to His disciples and says something shocks them.
- **Matthew 19:23-24**
- The debate over this verse is whether to take it literally or not.
- If literally, it would be impossible for a camel (the largest animal in Israel) to go through the eye of a needle (the smallest manmade opening). That is obviously impossible.
- Some suggest this is referring to a small gate into the city of Jerusalem that a camel could go through, but it would have to kneel and to be completely unloaded and then crawl on its belly through.
- That would be difficult but not impossible.
- If this is the correct interpretation, then it is suggesting that for a rich man to enter heaven he would have to kneel before Jesus, completely offload the things of this world, at least in his heart, and then humbly walk with Jesus.
- The disciples are astonished.
- **Matthew 19:25-26**
- It is impossible for a man or woman to save themselves.

- Salvation is a work of God by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ Jesus.
 - Peter, ever the one to say what is on his mind, asks a question.
 - Jesus' response is both encouraging and mysterious.
 - **Matthew 19:27-29**
 - As we look back onto these scenes through the lens of spirit-filled faith we are shocked and offended by Peter's question.
 - I would give all that I have to have been there with Jesus listening to His teaching, watching His miracles, and experiencing His love.
 - This is not a today promise – it points to the time of the regeneration when Jesus is seated on His throne.
 - This is one of the many Scriptures in the Bible that tell us that God will reward those who serve Him.
 - It is always a mistake to try to define what those rewards might be.
 - God, in His sovereignty, will reward His servants as He wills.
 - This verse tells us that the reward will far exceed the sacrifice.
 - No matter how small our sacrifice might be, God will be faithful to reward those who choose to serve Him. **Ivor Powell**
- “No person can work for God and go unrewarded. The tiny seed of sacrifice germinates to produce a great harvest.”**
- It is unfortunate that this next verse is not in chapter 20.
 - It seems to fit better there.
 - We will glance at it here but then come back to it next time.
 - **Matthew 19:30**
 - This is an encouragement to be faithful to serve God no matter how significant you might imagine yourself to be in the world's eyes.
 - Whatever work God gives you to do – be faithful.
 - Even if that service to God seems small and insignificant.
 - In God's kingdom there is no such as insignificant service to God.
 - Be faithful in whatever God sets before you.
 - And just as there are in insignificant acts of service to God, there are no useless Christ-followers.
 - Everyone in His kingdom has a place and a purpose (**Ephesians 2:10**). **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- Find your place and purpose and be faithful to it.
- If you are not sure where your place is or what your purpose is, then just find something to do.
- Troy's son Eli asked to serve around the church.
- He regularly comes and cleans up the trash in the parking lot.
- Chris asked me if there was anything he could help with.
- Now, every Sunday, he sets up for the weekly Bible studies.
- Look around and try to find something to do.
- Or ask me or one of the elders and keep asking until you find something.
- Get on the Prayer Team – be an usher or greeter. Help clean.
- Help in the Children's Ministry.
- Find something and then be faithful to it until God leads you to something else.
- God is not looking for people to do great works of service for Him but to do works of faithful service.
- Not because those works will get you into heaven.
- They won't – only faith in Christ Jesus can do that.
- Not even for the rewards you will get for doing them.
- God is looking for His people to serve Him because they are thankful for everything He has done and because they love Him.
- Brothers and sisters – let's be faithful servants of Our great God who loves us.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us serve God faithfully!
- **Pray! Communion!**
- Worship Team plays the last song!