

Overview

1-V1 Jesus continues His mission of proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is now present in the world by His marvelous words and works proving the message. This is what human souls long for ---so _____ crowds followed the Master and He _____ their sick.

2-V3-9 Most people want to be married. But among us about half the marriages end in divorce. This is an issue for God's people so the pastors of Israel, the _____. ask Jesus if a man should be allowed to _____ his wife. Jesus comments that God intertwines- body and soul-- a man and woman who marry by their vows and sexual relationship. Jesus quotes Genesis 2:24 - "*They are no longer two but _____, let no one separate them for _____ has joined them together.*" Hard heartedness is a failure in loving. . People have not matured in Christ-like love.

3-V9-12 Considering that marrying another person except for the _____ of the former spouse is _____ the disciples commented that then it is better _____ to marry. Jesus comments that not everyone can live well without a sexual partner. Only a few men are born or made _____ (an inability to perform sexually.) And there are some that choose not to marry for the sake of the _____-- Better able to serve without a family.

4-V13-15 Children are people in small bodies. That's how the Lord sees it. His disciples reflecting the always common thought that children are not very important, told the children not to _____ the Lord. Jesus teaches them otherwise by taking children in his lap _____ them and commenting "_____ the little children _____ to me! Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven _____ to such as these."

5-V16-22 A rich young man comes to Jesus and asks Him, "*What good things must I be _____ to have eternal life?*" A lot of people think that we connect with God by being good. The problem with being good is that it focuses on outward behavior (what we do) rather than on goodness in the heart - and on being the friend of God. This young man was a good person but in his heart of hearts he loved money (the alternative god) more than God so Jesus told him to _____ all that he had and give it to the _____. And then take a second step, to change his lifestyle to "come and _____ me (Jesus)"

6-V23-27 Jesus makes an exaggerated comparison that it is harder for a _____ man to enter heaven than for a _____ to go through the eye of a needle. The disciples thinking about their own selfish hearts - how they are trapped by their own indulgences--- exclaim, "_____ in the world can be _____?" Jesus says no person can save himself "*Humanly speaking it is _____. But with God _____ is _____.*"

7- V27 Peter wants to know what they are going to get out of _____ everything to follow Him. Jesus says they get 3 rewards: (1) They will set on _____ in heaven. (2) Everything they have given up in this life will be given back multiplied a _____ times. (3) They will have eternal _____

8-V30 It was said of the apostles in the days of the first church that they "turned the world up side down!" Actually the Kingdom of God turns things "right side up" Jesus came to set things right. Money, power, status make a person seem _____ now. But those considered _____ here will be the greatest in the Kingdom.

Word Study

• DIVORCE • WE GET? • PERFECT • GOOD • RICH • CAMEL

1.V 3 _____ There are four situations commonly allowing divorce and remarriage. (1) Unfaithfulness Matthew 5:31-32) (2) If the husband or wife insists on leaving. I Corinthians 7:16 (3) The person was not a Christian when he or she was divorced. (4) Annulment practiced by the Roman Catholic Church which happens after a determination by the priests that there was never a real marriage from the beginning. • Jesus spoke against divorce. It harms husbands, wives, children, the community, and God's desire to display marriage as visual example of the relationship of Christ and the Church. Ephesians 5:31-32 • Looking at human sexuality from the point of view of the Kingdom of God -- this life is short and eternity long. Perhaps better to stick it out--Better for those whose form of sexuality is forbidden by God to be celibate if they are not healed - *Better not to marry* as the disciples suggested if a person fears they might not endure in a marriage. • Broken marriages are a sin—a sin covered by the sacrifice of Christ Men and women need to ask God for forgiveness. There are new beginnings. God is merciful.

2.V16 _____ The question "*What good things must I do to have eternal life?*" reveals that this man thought eternal life could be earned by keeping the laws of Moses. As a Jew he would most likely think that. However, that he asked seems to indicate that he lacked assurance in spite of his exemplary life. Jesus compels the man to look at the sin of greed in his heart. Even as Jesus had said that lust is the same as adultery and hate the same as murder, out now that worship of money is the same as worshiping idols. Matthew 5:21,27, 7:24 In fact, as he points out how deeply love of money is rooted in the human soul the disciples exclaim, "*Who in the world can be saved?*" Jesus answers that God has to save us. V27

3. V21 _____. The word for perfect in the original Greek language is TELEOS which has the meaning of-- finishing a race, finishing the process of growing up and becoming mature. Moral perfection is possible when a person has become a "*new creation*" as a result of Christ coming into the human heart. On our part we willingly give up the things that displace God and prevent Christ from ruling in our heart. In the case of this man and many— his money ."*Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only of things down here on earth. For you died with Christ, and your real life is hidden in Christ in God.*" Colossians 3:3

4. V21 _____ Prosperity can be a trap for Christians. It is too simple to say that that riches are a sign of God's favor and those who are poor do not have God's favor. "*Most of the Jews have not found the favor of God they have looking for so earnestly...Their bountiful table becomes a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well, their blessings cause them to stumble.*" Romans 11:7-9 Jesus indicates that riches may well separate one from God's favor.

5. V24 _____ Some say the "eye of the needle" was a gate in the wall of Jerusalem which was so low that a camel could enter that gate only by being forced to its knees and crawling through. The challenge is to stay humble before God as the giver of everything even though a person has become rich. It is easy to worship and trust in money—to become materialistic, selfish and hard hearted. Money tempts us to "*think more highly of ourselves*" and "*thank God that we are not like other people.*" Romans 12:3, Luke 18:11

6. V27 _____ What's in it for me? Both Paul and Moses said they would be willing to be consigned to hell if God would spare the people. Few are such "great souls." But we work at living useful lives in God's eyes. However, we never "out give" Father God who wants to bless His children. So what we give to God ends up being returned to us multiplied. Job got his money and family back doubled. Job 42:10 We are also connected to God which imparts His eternal life to us. We have qualified ourselves to honor and rule in the Kingdom of God. Jesus illustrates in the parable following in Matthew 20:1-16 that God wants to prosper all who show up though we differ in abilities and opportunities.

What does this Scripture say to you? _____