

Lesson January 20: Difficult Teachings

1. Read **Matt 19:1-12** and answer:

- Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus if it was lawful to divorce a wife for any reason?
- What was his response based on the 'beginning'?
- What command of Moses did they then bring up?
- How did Jesus answer?
- Was there any exception to the rule?
- If there was no marital unfaithfulness, what sin would the one who marries another be guilty of?
- What was the reaction of the disciples to this?
- How did Jesus respond to their concerns?

Notes: (**See Deut 24:1-4**) : Infidelity of one party in the marriage is a violation of the marriage vow – Matt 19:6 (one party separating themselves from the other)

If a person cannot live up to God's marriage standard, they should not get married. There are some who ought not marry for this reason.

2. Read **Matthew 19:13-15** and **Mark 10:13-16** and answer:

- Why were people bringing little children to Jesus?
- What was the reaction of the disciples to this?
- How did Jesus respond?
- What lesson(s) did Jesus teach using the children as examples?

Notes: What aspects of little children are we as Christians to emulate? (How did the children react when called to come to Jesus?)

3. Read **Matthew 19:16-20:16** and answer:

- What question did the rich young man have for Jesus?
- How did Jesus answer him?
- After the young man stated that he had kept all the commands, what else did Jesus say that he needed to do?
- What was his reaction?
- What illustration did Jesus use to show how difficult it would be for a rich man to get to heaven?
- Was this something that was impossible?
- When the disciples said that they had left all for Jesus, what reward did he say they would receive?
- Was this reward just for them?
- What point was Jesus making in the parable of the workers in the vineyard being hired different times and yet receiving the same reward?

Notes: How “religious” was the rich young man? People can appear “religious” to those around them when their heart is focused on the physical things of this world, which then becomes their real god.

If the disciples had ‘given up’ all for Jesus, what did He mean when He said they would receive 100 times as much AND eternal life. It sounds like he was talking about receiving ‘more’ in this life – what does He mean? (As members of God’s family, we have many Christian brothers and sisters and their support if we will only accept it and embrace it – too often we try to ‘go it alone’ and end up discouraged and feeling by ourselves.)

Why would Jesus have told the parable of the workers in the vineyard right after this question from the disciples? (Remember what they were always ‘arguing about’ – “who is the greatest in the kingdom”) If one is working in the vineyard, it doesn’t matter to the Lord how long you have been there!

4. Read **Matthew 20:17-34** and answer:

- What did Jesus say would happen to him in Jerusalem?
- What request was made for James and John by their mother?
- What was Jesus’ response to this?
- Who did Jesus say would hold the position of ‘greatness’ in the kingdom?
- Near Jericho, Jesus passes two blind men. What did they cry out and ask Jesus to do for them?
- What did they do after Jesus healed him?

Notes: What was significant about the timing of the question by James and John? Jesus just told them what would happen to Him – apparently they didn’t understand it or chose to ignore it.

What “blind man” is mentioned in Mark as being near Jericho? Could he have been one of these two? (See **Mark 10:46**)

5. Read **Luke 19:1-28** and answer:

- As Jesus was passing through Jericho, what chief tax-collector did he meet?
- Where was this man? Why?
- What did Jesus say to him?
- What was the reaction of the people?
- What effect did this have on Zacchaeus?
- What did he say that he would do?
- What did Jesus say ‘had come to Zacchaeus’ house?
- Why did Jesus say that he had come (in general)?
- What lesson was Jesus teaching in the parable of the minas?
- How is the parable different from the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:14-30**?

Notes: The Law of Moses in **Ex 22** said that anything wrongfully taken from another had to be paid back double. What is significant about the conversion of Zacchaeus that showed he had truly repented?

In the parable of the minas, what was given to each servant was the same. What things are each of us given the same? (time in the day, opportunities to do good, worship services)

In the parable of the minas, what happened to those who opposed the one who was made king when he returned? (See **2Thess 1:7-11**)

This is referring to the eternal separation (spiritual death) that will be given to those who oppose Christ and His Father by their actions and their words.