

Together with Jesus

Week 9 – Matthew 19 and 20 – Hierarchy and the Kingdom

Matthew 19:1-12 **Teaching About Divorce and Remarriage**
A Pharisee asks Jesus a question about divorce which He uses as an opportunity to talk about marriage itself and celibacy.

- **What answer do you suppose the Pharisee is looking for from Jesus?**

Matthew 19:13-22 **Children and the Rich Young Ruler**
Jesus defies expectations by accepting young children to be brought to Him and turning away a rich religious man.

- **What do you think the rich young man was expecting Jesus to say to him?**

Matthew 19:23-30 **Who will enter the kingdom?**
After sending away the rich young man, Peter tests his understanding of how will enter into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus then discusses how even those who leave everything will receive blessings in the kingdom of heaven.

- **Do you think Peter gets it right? What do we do with these challenging words from Jesus?**

Matthew 20:1-16 **Parable of the Vineyard**
Jesus tells a parable stressing the importance of everyone being equal in the kingdom of God.

- **Who do you think were in Jesus' original audience that felt that they had been "working since the first shift"?**

Matthew 20:17-28 **Places of Honor and Service**
The mother of James and John come up to Jesus and asks that they be given places of honor in heaven. Jesus continues to teach about being last rather than first.

- **How do Christians today seek privilege from God?**

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Matthew 20:29-34 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

Jesus before going into Jerusalem, Jesus heals two blind men who join what seems to be a growing caravan of the people you wouldn't expect.

- **Who all do you imagine following Jesus at this point?**

Red Letter Challenge this week – I Was A Stranger

This week, take Jesus' words from Matthew 25:35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" to heart. Notice where people might feel uncomfortable or new. Have you met the people who live around you? Have you noticed anyone new at your job? Make a point of welcoming them and making them feel at home.