

# Sermon Notes – March 31, 2019

## Review

- ⇒ We've seen that Matthew presents Jesus as "the Christ" – the long-awaited and often-promised Messiah, and as "the Son of David" – the Davidic King promised in II Samuel 7. This gospel is full of references to OT Scripture and talk about "the Kingdom."
- ⇒ Last week we saw the religious leaders use the important topic of marriage & divorce for their own sinister agenda – trying to get Jesus in trouble by saying something controversial.

## Today's Text: Matthew 19:13-30

Our text today presents a striking contrast between children who are totally dependent on others, and a rich young man who was totally dependent on his money & his moral performance to find favor with God – yet living with a sneaking suspicion that he was perhaps missing something.

## The Value of Trusting, Humble Dependence

- ⇒ Jesus loved vivid illustrations – \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and children! Luke tells this same story and refers to the children as "even infants."
- ⇒ Jesus isn't using kids to emphasize "\_\_\_\_\_" – after all, from birth, our kids are all little sinners, and they'll only get better at it as they get older (and watch us!).
- ⇒ At the same time, this text does underscore God's value for children as Jesus uses them as an illustration – and as a contrast to the next person we meet in Matthew's narrative...

## The Idolatry of Moral Performance & Money

- ⇒ A Good Man: The young man talking with Jesus has by anyone's standard lived a good life. He is morally upright, meticulous about his \_\_\_\_\_, and for one reason or another, he's loaded! You'd probably want him as one of your kids!
- ⇒ Bad Theology:
  - Like most Americans, he views salvation by God as the result of "\_\_\_\_\_" good rather than bad.

Matthew 19:13-30  
Why It's Hard for Good People to be Saved  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- Again, like most, he sees a good, moral life primarily as outward behavior, not inward thoughts & \_\_\_\_\_ (remember our studies of the "Sermon on the Mount"?).
- ⇒ In verse 16, Jesus could have answered, "*All the commandments; All the time.*" Instead, He turns to well-known examples, and the young man reports "straight A's" on his moral \_\_\_\_\_!
- ⇒ To make His point, Jesus moves from the "Second Table" of the Ten Commandments to the beginning – "*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.*" (Exodus 20:1-3)
- ⇒ Jesus' point isn't about money; He asks, "Who – or what – do you truly worship?" In a sense, "Where is your \_\_\_\_\_? What do you truly \_\_\_\_\_?" Jesus calls the rich young man to set aside his false god of money & the prestige it brings, and instead, to become a follower of Jesus! But like many, he walked away.

## The Impossibility of Salvation – Apart from God's Gracious Work

- ⇒ Again, Jesus' comment in v. 23 isn't saying that having money or possessions will keep you out of heaven, only that trusting those things, indeed, will do so.
- ⇒ The disciples are astonished! After all, in good Jewish life having wealth was taken as a sure sign of God's blessing.
- ⇒ The conversation that follows teaches that God's greatest blessings, given to those who love & follow Him, aren't for this life, but for the life to come in God's presence. See Hebrews 11:6 and Revelation 21-22.

## Response to God's Word

- ⇒ So why IS it hard for "good people" to be saved? First, their eyes are riveted on their moral goodness and achievements; they don't see their spiritual bankruptcy and their desperate need for a Savior! And second, they tend to see salvation as a transaction instead of as a gift by grace. I
- ⇒ Two questions for you: Do you believe the biblical gospel – "Not by works lest anyone boast" – AND, Can you communicate it clearly to someone else?

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

April begins with “April Fools Day.” Are you an “April Fools” joke person? Or not so much? Have you ever pulled an April Fools joke on someone, or heard of a really good one that someone else did?

## Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the text (Matthew 19:13-30) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. More than once, Jesus embraces children as an example of those who are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. We’ve mentioned that the point isn’t innocence so much as humble dependence and simple trust. Can you think of any stories from your experience that highlight those commendable traits in kids? (Funny stories work here too...)
3. All three of the “synoptic gospels” tell the story of the “Rich, Young Ruler.” Take a few minutes to browse the other accounts – Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23 – and notice how each adds “color” or emphasis. For example, Mark notes, “Jesus, looking at him, loved him...” What do you make of that? And what else do you notice as you compare the three accounts?
4. We mentioned on Sunday that this guy views salvation like most Americans do. In what sense is that true? How does the biblical gospel differ from that common, cultural view?

5. In the final paragraph of Matthew 19 we find Peter asking, “We have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” What was that all about? Move slowly through Jesus’ response? What details does Jesus give? How does His answer give hope and perspective to life & all our struggles?

## Taking It Further & Taking It Home

READ the description of the Millennial Kingdom, and the new heavens & new earth in Isaiah 65:17-25 and Revelation 21 & 22. How does THAT great day answer Peter’s question – and yours – from Matthew 19:27?

## Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

**Next Sunday Worship: April 7, 2019**

**“Do You Begrudge the Mercy of God?”**

(Matthew 20:1-28)

Matt Richey

**Answer Key:** ▪ flowers ▪ birds ▪ innocence ▪ behavior ▪ doing ▪ desires ▪ report card ▪ security ▪ love