

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 19 ~ Exploring Chapter 19:16 – 20:34

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 19:16-20:34
- Read Matt. 19:16 to 20:34 twice. Then examine the following questions and issues, recording your thoughts in your Matthew notebook.
- Re-Read Matt. 19:16-27 – Now compare the passages parallel to 19:16-27 in the other Gospels to see what additional facts you can glean about the identity of the man who interacts with Jesus in these verses.
 - Write out your first impression to this man's question in 19:16. Carefully note Jesus' list of commandments in verses 18 and 19. What do they have in common? What do you notice about the order of the list? What types of commandments are missing from that list?
 - Taking verses 18-22 as a group, describe the man's basic problem. Summarize the meaning of verses 23-26.
 - **Reflection and application**
 - What is your equivalent to the rich young ruler's problem?
 - What should you do about it?
 - When?
- Re-Read Matt. 19:16-20:16 and then answer the following questions.
 - Matthew 19:27-30 lies between the story of the young man and the parable of the vineyard. How do these verses relate to the story of 19:16-26?
 - How do they relate to the parable of 20:1-16?
 - In what ways do verses 27-30 tie the story and the parable together? Why do you think 19:30 is repeated in 20:16? In light of 19:26-30, summarize the meaning of the parable of the vineyard.
- Re-Read Matt. 20:29-34 and then answer the following questions.
 - In 20:20-28 we find the mother of James & John seeking the highest places in the kingdom for her sons. What is there about human nature that makes this topic so attractive in spite of everything that Jesus has said against it thus far in Matthew? Summarize in your own language the main points in 20:24-28 and the implications of those points.
 - Matthew 20:29-34 tells of Jesus providing sight for the blind. Compare that miracle with the parallel passage in Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18:35-43. What major difference do you find between the accounts? How would you explain the discrepancy? Write out your answers in your Matthew notebook.

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).