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By Dan Maines

Matthew 19

Matthew 19:1-2

When Jesus had finished these words, He left Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

† Jesus left Galilee and moved toward Judea, setting His path toward Jerusalem and the climax of His mission.

† The healings confirmed His kingdom authority and compassion.

† These miracles foreshadowed the spiritual healing of Israel's remnant before judgment fell.

Matthew 19:3-9

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate." They said to Him, "Why, then, did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

† The Pharisees tested Jesus with the divisive question of divorce.

† Jesus upheld marriage as God's creation order, not a convenience to be discarded.

† Hardness of heart led to brokenness under the old covenant, but Christ restored God's original intent.

Matthew 19:10-12

The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry." But He said to them, "Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

† The disciples struggled with the high calling of marriage.

† Jesus acknowledged singleness and celibacy for the kingdom as a legitimate calling.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, devotion to Christ transcends earthly concerns.

Matthew 19:13-15

Then some children were brought to Him so that He would lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Leave the children alone, and do not forbid them to come to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After laying His hands on them, He departed from there.

† The disciples dismissed children as unimportant, but Jesus valued them as examples of faith.

† The kingdom belongs to the humble and dependent, not the proud.

† This echoes the lesson of Matthew 18 and reinforces the fulfilled view of kingdom life.

Matthew 19:16-22

And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do so that I may obtain eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you want to enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not give false testimony; Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have kept; what am I still lacking?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

† The rich young ruler sought eternal life by works, but Jesus exposed his heart-idol of wealth.

† True discipleship required surrender and following Jesus.

† Wealth blinded many in that generation, binding them to the world that was about to pass away.

Matthew 19:23-26

And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at them, Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

† Wealth was seen as God's blessing, but Jesus showed it could be a barrier to the kingdom.

† Salvation was not humanly possible, only God's grace could save.

† This truth is fulfilled in the New Covenant, where God brings people in by His power, not status.

Matthew 19:27-30

Then Peter responded and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms on account of My name, will receive a hundred times as much, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."

† Jesus promised His apostles authority in the coming judgment on Israel.

† Their sacrifices would be richly rewarded in the New Covenant order.

† The reversal of first and last highlighted the covenant shift from unbelieving Israel to the faithful remnant.

How it applies to us today:

† Matthew 19 teaches that discipleship means surrendering all for Christ, whether in marriage, family, or wealth. The fulfilled perspective shows us that the judgment fell on the Old Covenant world in AD 70, and the kingdom was established in fullness. Today we live in that kingdom, called to humility like children, faith beyond possessions, and full devotion to the King who reigns.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.5.2

† Mishnah, Gittin 9; Ketubot 4.2

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 49

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.13.3

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