

A Different Kingdom

Greatness and the Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 19:16—20:34

“But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.” Matthew 19:30

1. Read Matthew 19:16–30. What does the rich young man want and how does he think he can get it? (verse 16)
2. What is Jesus’ initial response to the man’s question? (verse 17) Why is it impossible (verse 26) to earn eternal life by obeying the commandments? (Romans 3:10–12, 20–24)
3. The rich young man says he has kept all the laws Jesus listed. What does the man’s next question show? (verse 20b)
4. What does the rich man cherish that keeps him from following Jesus? (verses 21–22) How are you like the rich man—is there something in your life that Jesus is asking you to put aside for his sake?
5. Read Matthew 20:1–16. What are the disciples concerned with? (Matthew 18:1, 19:27, and 20:21) How is Jesus addressing their way of thinking by his words in 19:30 and 20:16 and in the parable in between?
6. Why did the workers grumble at the end of the day? How does the landlord’s reply reveal what’s going on in their hearts?
7. What do we learn about the landowner in the parable?
8. Read Matthew 20:17–28. What is the mother of James and John asking of Jesus? Why do you think the other disciples are indignant?

9. What is the cup Jesus is referring to in verses 22–23? (verses 18–19, 28)

10. How does Jesus teach the disciples about true greatness in verses 25–28?

11. Identify areas in your life where being a willing servant is difficult. Why is it so hard to be a servant? What do we need to believe about God in order to be this kind of servant?

12. Read Matthew 20:29–34. How and to whom do the blind men appeal? Contrast the crowds' response to them with Jesus' response.

13. Notice Jesus' questions in verses 21 and 32. How was Jesus' response different each time? How do you answer his question today?