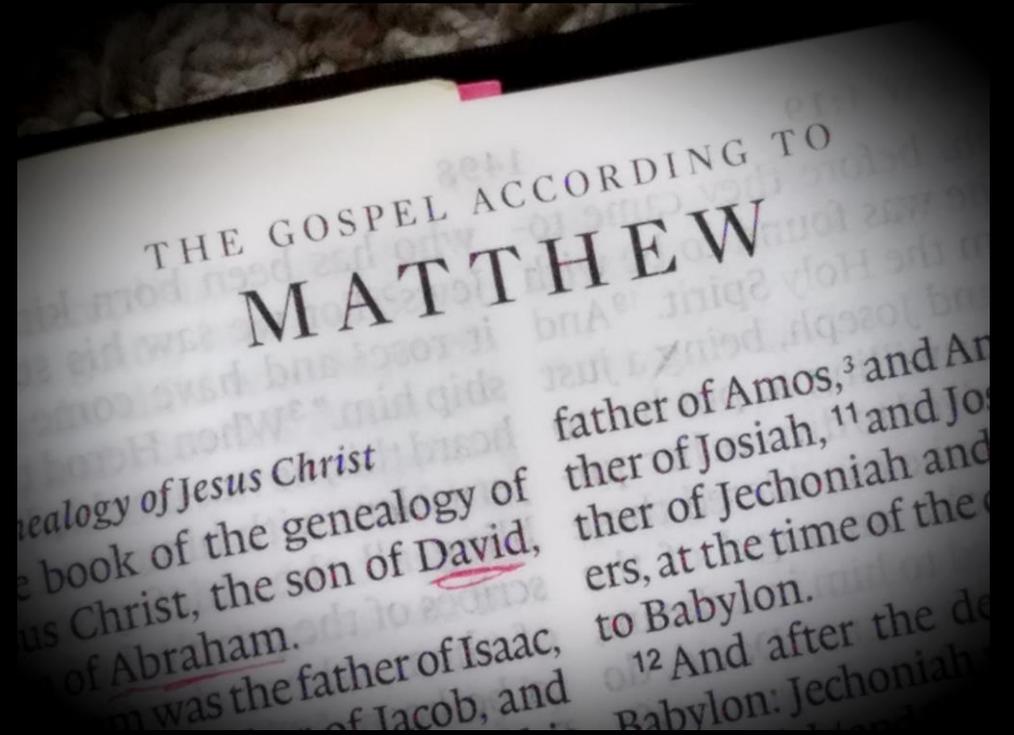


# Verse by Verse

## Matthew 19



# Matthew 19 Introduction

# Matthew 19 Introduction

- Who is in charge?
- Much of what we deal with in the Christian life can be settled once we admit that God has the last say. Always.
- The story of the rich young man reveals one of the primary flaws in a religious outlook – the desire to remain in control.
- Jesus holds up children as an example.
- It is easy for children to assume that someone else is in charge. They have little or no illusion of self-reliance.

# Matthew 19 Introduction

- Who is in charge?
- The chapter starts with a discussion of divorce.
- In it, Jesus bypasses the need to look at specific cases and brings us back to God's design for marriage.
- By doing so, he shows us the foundation for human society as God intended it.
- Most of us have probably failed to live this out.

# Matthew 19 Key Verses

- Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

# Matthew 19 Key Verses

- Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

# Matthew 19 Outline

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1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12
2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15
3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

- There was an ongoing dispute in Judaism at this time regarding divorce.
- The Pharisees (v.3) want Jesus to weigh in on the debate.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

- In **Deuteronomy 24**, Moses allowed for divorce over “**some indecency.**”
- The school of **Shammai** interpreted this to mean adultery.
- The school of **Hillel** was much more lenient, allowing divorce for any number of less serious things.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

- Jesus takes the stricter view, but bypasses the current argument and focuses on God's created intent for marriage.
- He is not as concerned with Deuteronomy as with what God says in the first chapters of Genesis.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

- He quotes from **Genesis 1:27** and **2:24**.
- There are at least **six important points** about marriage that we can take from Christ's teaching.<sup>1</sup>

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Jesus on marriage:

- First, it is designed by God.
- Jesus begins in v. 4 with “He who created them...”
- Whatever comes after this, we know it is God-ordained.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Jesus on marriage:

- Second, it is based upon complementarity.
- God “made them male and female” (v.4)
- The difference is part of the design.
- This was completely obvious and non-controversial for millennia, but now that has changed.
- Our social norms have changed, not the Bible.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Jesus on marriage:

- Third, it was meant to be permanent.
- 19:5 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
- If you think about it for a minute, Adam and Eve had no option to divorce one another.
- This is the example God intended us to follow.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Jesus on marriage:

- Fourth, marriage was meant to be **exclusive**.
- **19:5** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
- There is no room for a third party here.
- There is no concept of an “open marriage.”
- No room for polygamy.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

Jesus on marriage:

- Fifth, a marriage begins a new family.
- **19:5** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
- As the old KJV put it, we “leave” our parents and then “cleave” to our spouse.
- There is no middle ground of living together to make sure the two are compatible.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Jesus on marriage:

- Sixth, marriage is not for everyone.
- 19:10-12 The disciples think Jesus is being kind of strict.
- He refuses to soften his standards, but happily concedes that not everyone ought to be married, even as he was not.
- (Eunuchs were those who renounced marriage. In ancient times, for men, that was reinforced surgically.)

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- **If you are married**, please do not consider divorce an option.
- We as a church can promise to do whatever we can to help you make your marriage strong.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- **If you are divorced**, even if remarried, it is likely that you are dealing with incredible pain, incredible guilt, or both.
- We as a church ought to be willing to help you through those struggles, but perhaps we have fallen short.
- Many churches now have divorce care or recovery ministries.
- We do not, but maybe we should.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- **If you are living together**, or thinking about it, please don't.
- In biblical times, the legally binding, lifelong commitment was in place before the couple ever lived together.
- That is why Joseph thought about “divorcing” Mary, though they had always lived separately.
- Jesus also saw a difference between a husband and “**not your husband,**” in **John 4:16-18**.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- **If you are single**, whether divorced, widowed or never married, hold that single status in high regard.
- Single people have always been an important part of the church starting with **Jesus, Paul, and (it seems) Timothy**.
- Church history gives us many more names.
- This church has always had committed singles as part of its leadership – from its founding to the present day.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- What about same-sex, or homosexual desires?
- Should we interpret Christ's silence on the issue as open-mindedness toward gay marriage?
- No. The Jewish view before Christ that continued in his day and beyond was that homosexual relations were wrong.
- Christ, in not commenting, never disagreed with that.

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12



*Instead of differentiating between opposite-sex desires and same-sex desires, let's use the biblical categories of good desires and sinful desires. Good sexual desires are those whose end is biblical marriage. Sinful sexual desires are those whose end is outside of the context of biblical marriage.<sup>2</sup>*

*– Christopher Yuan, Moody Bible Institute  
(He is HIV positive due to previous gay relations and intentionally remains single.)*

# 1. Marriage and Divorce 19:1-12

## Applications for us:

- Christ held marriage to be holy and so should we.
- Christ also valued people even in their most broken, sinful and obviously fallen state – and so should we.
- Whatever guilt, shame or confusion resulting from past or present sin, we should know that God simply loves us.
- He wants to heal the hurts, forgive the sin, and make us into holy people eager to serve him.

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Last week we mentioned a few good things about children relating to faith. This week we will repeat them.

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Innocence
- Romans 16:19 (ESV)

For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Not afraid to ask for what they need
- **Matthew 7:7-11** (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ...

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Not afraid to ask for what they need
- **Matthew 7:7-11** (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Dependence, trust
- Psalm 131 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.

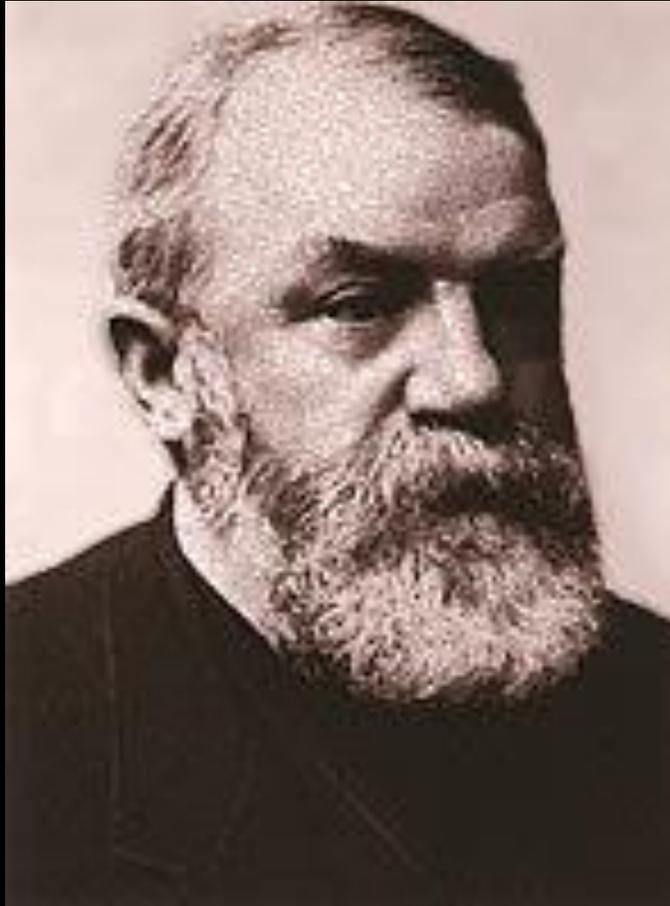
## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Dependence, trust
- Psalm 131 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

<sup>3</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore.

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15



*It is a masterpiece of the devil to make us believe that children cannot understand religion. Would Christ have made a child the standard of faith if He had known that it was not capable of understanding His words?*

*– Dwight L. Moody (1837 – 1899),  
American evangelist*

## 2. Let the Children Come 19:13-15

- Jesus was more than willing to accept children just as they were and give them his blessing.
- Ministry to children – for example, Sunday school – may be the most important ministry any church has.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- Matthew tells us he was young (v.20) and rich (vv.22-24).
- Luke adds that he was a ruler (Luke 18:18).

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- Like so many who think in religious terms, his basic question is problematic.
- “What good deed must I do ... ?” (v.16)

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- He fails to recognize that God made his covenant with Abraham *before* Abraham ever *did* anything.
- God also rescued the people of Israel from Egypt *before he gave them the law* and or the Ten Commandments.
- If God ever decided to start from our works, rather than his grace, all of us would be condemned.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- Jesus is willing to say, maybe just for the sake of argument, that it is about works (vv.17-19).
- But then, why ask the question? The commandments are already there in the law.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- The man is confident he has kept the commandments (v.20).
- But has he? For example, has he truly “loved his neighbor as himself”?
- He is a wealthy man. How much has he done for the poor?

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- When Jesus challenged him on the one issue that is standing between him and God, the man “went away sorrowful.”
- Here is the main problem with most religion.
- The religious person gets to stay in control.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

- The disciples were tempted by a common falsehood of that day and ours – that wealth is a sign of God’s favor.
- We may think it is sort of a reward or something we deserve.
- In reality, it is “impossible” (v.26) for the rich or for anyone else to be saved on their own merit.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

#### Applications for us:

- The gospel is both more gracious and more demanding than the rich young man's religion.
- It is more gracious in that Jesus paid the price for our sins and offers us eternal life on that basis, not something we do.
- It is more demanding because we are no longer in control.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

Applications for us:

- NEWSFLASH! We Cannot Be in Control and Never Were
- We can either receive eternal life from Jesus or we can die anyway – without him.

### 3. The Rich Young Man 19:16-30

Applications for us:

People often hold onto one thing rather admit that Christ has the right to be Lord their lives.

- This man's problem was his wealth.
- What is ours?

# Matthew 19    What We Just Read

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1. Marriage and Divorce    19:1-12
2. Let the Children Come    19:13-15
3. The Rich Young Ruler    19:16-30

# Matthew 19    Key Verses

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- Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

# Matthew 19    Key Verses

- Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

# Matthew 19    Key Points

1. Marriage is designed by God.
2. Marriage is based upon complementarity.
3. Marriage was meant to be permanent.
4. Marriage was meant to be exclusive.
5. Marriage begins a new family.
6. Marriage is not for everyone.
7. In faith, we should be like children
8. In devotion, we should give Jesus all.

# Matthew 19    A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Our lives belong to you.
- Help us to trust you completely as obedient children.
- If there is anything standing in the way of our complete commitment, we ask you to reveal it to us so that we can serve you with all that we have and all that we are.
- We admit that we have ignored your instructions for marriage as you intended it. We have made marriage more about our personal wishes than your perfect will.

# Matthew 19    A Prayer

- Again, since we belong to you, help us to serve you, whether married or single, with contentment and with willing hearts.
- In the end we see that eternal life is nothing more, nothing less and nothing other than life given to us as a gift from you and to be lived completely for you.
- Make us people whose lives reveal that to the world.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

# Matthew 18    References

1. Green, M. (2001). (p. 202ff). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
2. Yuan, Christopher. (2018). (69-70). New York, Multnomah.