

Matthew 19:1-12

- 1) "Australia was founded on Christian values." Do you think Christian values still dominate in Australian society?
- 2) Read Matthew 19:1-12
- 3) What do you think is the motive behind the Pharisees' question about divorce?
- 4) What is the ideal God sets up for marriage in Genesis which is quoted here (Read Gen 1:26-28 and 2:18-25)?
- 5) Why do you think God cares so much about marriage? (also see Rev 21:1-4)
- 6) In verse 7 the Pharisees refer to part of the OT law from Deuteronomy. Read Deut 24:1-4. Why do you think it was necessary for Moses to issue laws about divorce? Also consider Genesis 3.
- 7) Why do you think an exception is made here for adultery?
- 8) How did the disciples react to Jesus teaching on marriage/divorce? What is your reaction to his teaching?
- 9) What does Jesus have to say about singleness (v11&12)?
- 10) How should we as both individuals and as a church family balance the following:
 - a. Caring for those affected by marriage breakdown
 - b. Upholding God's view on the sanctity of marriage?

Matthew 19:13-30

- 1) Do you think God is pleased when non-Christians act kindly or generously towards others? Why do you think this?
- 2) Read Matthew 19:13-30
- 3) What does the way Jesus accepted the children show us about:
 - a. Jesus
 - b. children
- 4) What do you think is the motive behind the rich man's question in v16?
- 5) What does Jesus try and get the man to see in v17?
- 6) What does the man's answer "all these I have kept" (v20) show us about him?
- 7) Why does Jesus ask him to sell his possessions? Are we all required to do such a thing? Why/why not?
- 8) Why do you think the disciples are so astounded by Jesus statement in v23 & 24? (consider how God's blessing is understood at this time)
- 9) What is Jesus referring to in v26? What is impossible for man but possible for God?
- 10) In v27 Peter boldly asks "What's in it for us?". What is Jesus response? Do you think it was a reasonable question for Peter to ask? Why or why not?
- 11) How does the contrast between the little children and the rich man help us to understand v 30?
- 12) The young man's wealth stood between him and God. What stumbling blocks have the potential to stand between you and God? Think and pray about these things.

Matthew 20:1-19

- 1) Can you think of a time when you or someone close to you has been treated unfairly? How did you react?
- 2) Read Matthew 20:1-19
- 3) Summarise the main elements of the parable including an explanation of who is represented in the parable.
- 4) What do you think the reaction of Jesus' listeners would have been to such a parable? What is your reaction?
- 5) What is unusual about:
 - a. Who goes to hire the men
 - b. How many times he goes back?
- 6) What was the specific complaint of those who had worked the full day? (Note: a denarius per day was the usual daily wage)
- 7) What is the owner's explanation for his behaviour? What is it about the owner's reason that makes the workers (and perhaps us) uneasy?
- 8) For the third time in Matthew's gospel Jesus predicts his death and resurrection (see Matt 16:21 and Matt 17:22-23)
 - a. Why is it necessary for Jesus to say this three times?
 - b. How does the prediction give us a better understanding of the preceding parable?
- 9) What does today's passage teach us about the place of 'merit' in God's kingdom? What impact should this have on our daily living as Christians?

Matthew 20:20-34

- 1) What does a person have to achieve to be considered “great” in our society today? Give some examples of modern day “greats”.
- 2) Read Matthew 20:20-34
- 3) What did the mother of James & John request of Jesus? What did that request mean?
- 4) What are the two objections Jesus raises to the request?
- 5) Why do you think the other disciples were “indignant”?
- 6) What does both the request and the response from the other disciples show us about the disciples understanding of Jesus’ kingdom?
- 7) What contrast does Jesus make between the way the leaders of the gentiles behave and the way the leaders of God’s people should act?
- 8) The familiarity of verse 28 may cause us to rush through it. What central gospel truths are contained here?
- 9) This section of Matthew’s gospel concludes with the episode of Jesus healing the blind men.
 - a. How do the blind men respond to Jesus?
 - b. How does this contrast with the other episodes in chapters 19 & 20?
- 10) Leadership in the kingdom of God is about serving others.
 - a. What should this model look like in our church and families?
 - b. Is it valid to extend this leadership model to secular situations such as workplaces? Why or why not?