

## *SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS*

### 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

**Day 1: Read Matthew 19:16–24.**

1. What does the rich young man want and how does he think he'll get it? (v. 16)
2. What is Jesus' initial response to the rich man's question? (v. 17)

Jesus knows that it is impossible for anyone to get eternal life by obeying the commandments, and he's trying to get the rich young man to see this. Why is it impossible? (v. 26, Rom. 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 reveal he's lacking? (v. 20b)

**Day 2: Read Matthew 19:16–20:16.**

4. In verse 21, “Jesus takes the young man to the inner place where his values are formed (his heart) and challenges him to see what is his most cherished value—in essence, the ruling god of his life.”  
(Wilkins, Michael J. *The NIV Application Commentary: Matthew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2004, p. 649)
  - a. What does the young man cherish that keeps him from following Jesus? (vv. 21, 22)  
(📖\* Jonah 2:8)
  - b. What, if anything, do you cherish that keeps you from following Jesus?

5. Read Phil. 3:4b-11. What does Paul understand that this man doesn't?

6. What perspective does Jesus give the disciples on the sacrifices they have made to follow him?  
(vv. 28-30) (📖\* 2 Cor. 4:17-18)

What are the disciples concerned with in verses 18:1, 19:27, 20:21?

How is Jesus addressing their way of thinking in verse 30 and in the parable that follows?

**Day 3: Read Matthew 20:1-16.**

7. The landowner hires men to work 12, 9, 6, 3 and 1 hour(s) in his vineyard. What are the terms of employment for each set of workers? (vv. 2, 4, 5, 7)

\* The 📖 symbol identifies verses for further study.

8. What do we learn about the attitude of the first set of workmen from verses 10-15?

What attitudes might you have that are similar to the workmen?  
(📖\* Consider Peter in 19:27 and Jn. 21:18-22.)

9. What do we learn about the landowner in the parable?

**Day 4: Read Matthew 20:17-28.**

10. What grim realities is Jesus aware of as he goes up to Jerusalem? What glorious reality?

How should this give the disciples hope?

How can the resurrection give you hope? (1 Cor. 15:17-22, 42-44)

11. What is the mother of James and John asking of Jesus?

Why do you think the other disciples are indignant?

12. "The 'cup' throughout Scripture refers figuratively to one's divinely appointed destiny, whether it was one of blessing and salvation (Ps. 16:5; 116:13) or of wrath and disaster (Is. 51:17; Jer. 25:15-29)." (Wilkins, p. 668)

What is the cup Jesus is referring to and what was it like for him to drink? (18, 19, 28; Mt. 26:38-45)

**Day 5: Read Matthew 20:20-34.**

13. In what way will James and John drink from Jesus' cup? (Acts 12:1, 2; Rev. 1:9)  
(📖\* Jn. 15:18-21; Acts 5:40-41)

14. How does Jesus teach the disciples about true greatness in verses 25-28?

15. How and to whom do the blind men appeal?

Contrast the crowds' response to them with Jesus' response.

16. Contrast the result of Jesus' interactions with the rich young man and the blind men.

What have you learned about the kingdom from this week's lesson that will radically change how you think or live?