

Adult Sunday School

June 6, 2021

Matthew 20:24-34

Outline

- ¹The Community of the Messiah Revealed (18:1-20:34) - This is the fourth of Jesus' five major discourses in Mathew's Gospel. As his earthly ministry draws to a close, Jesus has spent considerable time clarifying his identity and mission. He instructs his disciples on the nature of his covenant community, explaining his kingdom community's characteristics, its implications for the sanctity of marriage, and its value.
 - Valuing the kingdom community (19:1-20:34) - The great Galilean ministry is now ended, and Jesus and his disciples begin the momentous journey to Jerusalem. Jesus explains the sanctity of marriage and reveals the tragedy of the rich young man, in contrast to the gracious reward awaiting those who follow him. This leads to the parable of the vineyard workers. Jesus then gives the prediction of his death and sets an example for community sacrifice, suffering, and service. As he and his disciples begin the ascent to Jerusalem, Jesus mercifully heals two blind men in Jericho.
 - NOTE: after leaving Galilee Jesus was denied access Samaria and traveled through Perea on the east side of the Jordan River as he journeyed south to Jerusalem. Then he crossed the Jordan into Judea through Jericho and on up to Jerusalem approaching from the east.

Matthew 20:24-28

Theme- True standard of greatness among Christians

Scope and Purpose

These verses contain lessons of great importance to all Christians. Ryle provides four lessons.

Lessons

1. There may be pride, jealousy, and love of preeminence among the true disciples of Christ. *And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers-Matthew 20:24.*
 - a. Pride
 - i. They angels fell because of it.
 - ii. Adam and Eve fell because of it.
 - iii. Hooker- Pride is a vice which cleaves so fast unto the hearts of people, that if we were to strip ourselves of all faults one by one, we should undoubtedly find it the very last and hardest to put off.
2. We learn that a life of self-denying kindness to others is the true secret of greatness in the kingdom of Christ. *Matthew 20:26-27 - It shall not be so*

¹ ESV Study Bible

among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave

- a. The standard of the world and the standard of Jesus are contradictory to one another.
 - i. World- The person with the greatest land, most money, most earthly power, most toys
 - ii. Children of God - promote the spiritual and temporal happiness of our fellow man, imparting good to others, serving, ministering to others.
 - iii. *Acts 20:35- In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is intended to be the example of all true Christians. *Matthew 20:28 -even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - a. *1 Peter 2:21 - For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
 - b. Questions for reflection on your own example- Would my Master have spoken in this manner? Would my Master have behaved in this way?
 - c. *Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*
 - d. *1 John 2:6- whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*
4. Christ's death was an atonement for sin. *Mark 10:45 -For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - a. Christ died as a sacrifice for sin and make reconciliation for our iniquity; by offering himself to redeem us from the curse which we all deserved and to make satisfaction to the justice of God. Never forget this!
 - b. Application questions - Where is our humility? What is our idea of true greatness? Who is our example? What is our hope?
 - c. Happy is the one who is truly humble, strives to do good, walks in the steps of Jesus, and rests all his hopes on the ransom paid for him by Christ's blood. Such a person is a true Christian. WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU BELIEVE?

Matthew 20:29-34

Theme- Healing of two blind men.

Scope and Purpose

Jesus heals two blind men sitting by the wayside near Jericho². There are four lessons which all Christians would do well to remember.

Prominent Points

1. Strong faith appears where we least expect it. These men believed Jesus could help them. They only heard of him by word of mouth yet they cried - *And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" - Matthew 20: 30*
 - a. How few of us have the childlike confidence in Christ's mercy and Christ's power. Our degree of faith is strangely disproportionate with the privileges we enjoy.
2. Note the wisdom of using every opportunity to do good for our souls. These men sat by the roadside ready to take advantage of grace.
 - a. Let us note the importance of the diligent use of the means of grace.
 - i. Let us never neglect the house of God, assembling with God's people,
 - ii. Let us not neglect our Bible reading
 - iii. Let us not neglect our prayer.
 - b. Souls are converted and saved by the means, this is the way Jesus walks. The means fuel our walk of faith.
 - c. Do we know the diseases of our souls? Do we have a desire for the Great Physician? We must go where Jesus walks. Who can tell but he will soon pass by for the last time? Let us sit daily by the roadside.
3. Note the value of pains and perseverance in seeking Christ. *The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" - Matthew 20:31.*
 - a. The crowd tried to discourage, but the men cried out the more.
 - b. We are not to be deterred by opposition or discouraged by difficulties, when we seek the salvation for our souls.
 - c. *Luke 18:1 - And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*
 - d. *Genesis 32:26 - Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me.*
 - e. *Matthew 11:12 - From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force*
4. Note how gracious Jesus is to those who seek him. *Matthew 20:32-34 - And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for*

² This is not the Jericho of the book of Joshua. This is a new city one mile south of the OT city, just across the Jordan River into Judea. The new Jericho surrounded a huge palace complex first built by the Hasmoneans (2nd century B.C.) which Herod the Great expanded. – ESV Study Bible

you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

- a. We see Christ's merciful heart toward us.
- b. *Ephesians 3:19 - and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
- c. Let us pray that we may know more of Jesus' love. We need it in all stages of life up to the evening of our days.
- d. Let us grasp the love of Christ firmly, and keep it daily before our minds.

BONUS

Prayer from Joseph Alleine³ - O thou all-powerful Jehovah, that works, and none can hinder thee; that hast the keys of hell, and of death ; pity thou the dead souls that lie here entombed, and roll away the grave-stone, and say, as to Lazarus, when already stinking, Come forth. Lighten thou this darkness, O inaccessible light, and let the day-spring from on high visit the darksome region of the dead, to whom I speak: for thou canst open the eyes that death itself hath closed : thou that forms the ear, can restore the hearing: say thou to these ears, Ephphatha, and they shall be opened. Give thou eyes to see thine excellences, a taste that may relish thy sweetness, a scent that may savor thine ointments, a feeling that may sense the privilege of thy favor, the burden of thy wrath, the intolerable weight of unpardoned sin; and give thy servants command to prophesy to the dry bones, and let the effects of this prophecy be, as of thy prophet, when he prophesied the valley of dry bones into a living army, exceeding great,

Rut Etheridge III- While we encourage our children to remember their Savior's Word in the days of their youth, we're rearing them in a culture that has historically worked so hard to forget it- and that in our day has succeeded...Cleansed from sin and re-created in Christ, we live our truest, fullest life, led by the written Word of the self-existent God who knows you, and all things, definitively. Jesus Himself looked to the Scriptures to lead Him through life in this world. Not even God incarnate wanted to self-define. And that's the best reason there is, and the truest encouragement we can give our children to trust the Scriptures. Jesus did the same. A life lived believing in Jesus and believing what Jesus believers- what more could we want for our children, and what better could we imagine? The Scriptures light the path to such a life. ⁴



³ A Sure Guide to Heaven

⁴ Tabletalk June 2021- City on a Hill