

MATTHEW (THE KING, HIS KINGDOM AND ME)
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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 33 – The Call To Fully Surrender

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever thought about what happens after death? Is death the very end of life? It's not meant to be. God wants you to inherit eternal life. God wants you to live forever. God wants you to be His child. God wants you to enjoy the coming kingdom of the Son of Man. And your question may be, "Well then, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

I'm in the ruins of an ancient inn, an inn that was along a road that went from the Galilee down to Judea. And we've chosen this place because when you read Matthew chapter 19 verse 1 you read that after "...**Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; and large crowds followed Him....**" (Matthew 19:1-2) He is headed for Jerusalem and He knows that His hour

has come. He knows that it is soon the time for Him to be crucified. And yet He has much to teach them. And He's the Master Teacher. And every situation He turns into a time of learning, a time of teaching them about the kingdom of God. Because remember, **"...the kingdom of [God] is at hand."** (Matthew 3:2) The book of Matthew is all about the kingdom. And the book of Matthew is about the King, Jesus, the Messiah, Jesus, the King of kings. And so, as we read, He has a young man, a rich young man that comes up to Him to ask Him a question. If you'll look at Matthew chapter 19, verse 16, **"And someone came to Him and said, 'Teacher, what ... [things may] I do that I [might inherit] eternal life?' "** (Matthew 19:16) What do I have to do to know that I am going to have eternal life? **"And He said to him, 'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.'" (Matthew 19:17)** In another gospel it says, "Why are you calling Me good?" (See Luke 18:19) I think that what Jesus constantly is doing is, He's constantly bringing people face to face with who is He. He is the Son of Man. He is the One that is prophesied by Daniel. He is the Son of God. And He needs to have them recognize that He's not just an ordinary man. And He wants them to know that there's none that is good. We're sinners, but there is One who is without sin. And the One who is without sin is the One that stood before them. And so He says, **"[Okay,] ...keep the commandments."** (Matthew 19:17) And the young man says to Him, **"...If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments. [And] then he said to Him, 'Which ones?' [Which ones am I to keep?] And Jesus said [to him], 'You shall not commit murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false [what] witness; honor your father and [your] mother; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [And] the young man said to Him, 'All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?'"** (Matthew 19:17-20) I've kept these things. I haven't committed adultery. I haven't stolen. I haven't borne false witness against

someone else. I've honored my father and my mother. I've loved my neighbor as myself. But I know that something's lacking. **"...What am I still lacking? [And] Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be complete....,'"** if you wish to be mature, if you wish to be perfect, He says, **"[then] go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me, [follow Me]."** (Matthew 19:20-21) The young man dropped his hat—the young man dropped his head. And why did he drop his head? It says, **"...When the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was [a man] who owned much property."** (Matthew 19:22) Now Jesus had said, "Look, take what you have and give it to the poor. Give away your possessions." Now, do you have to give away your possessions to inherit eternal life? No, you don't have to give away your possessions. But you have to be willing to acknowledge that He is God and that you are to obey Him; that you are to surrender everything in order to follow Him. Let me read it to you again. He says in verse 21, **"[And] Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give [it] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, [and] follow Me.'"** (Matthew 19:21) Do you know what Jesus did at that moment? Jesus took His finger, verbally, and placed it on an idol. Because he wanted eternal life, but he wanted eternal life on his conditions; he wanted eternal life, but he didn't want to give up his possessions. There was something that he wanted more than eternal life. He wanted the temporal rather than the eternal. And he had a lot of possessions, and this is why we call him a rich man. **"[And] Jesus said...., 'If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give [it] to the poor....' But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving..."** now watch, **"...for he was one who owned much property."** (Matthew 19:21-22) When you follow Jesus Christ, Precious One, you are called to follow Him all the way. You are called to surrender everything. He is God. And you are called to leave everything and to follow Him. Later on

Jesus will say, “If any man,” or He’s already said it. [“If any man’s going to come after me, let him deny himself, let him take up his cross and let him follow Me. Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me.”]
(PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:24) He must reign supreme. He must have our total allegiance. Well, **“...Jesus said..., ‘Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matthew 19:23)** Once again you want to mark the phrase, “kingdom of heaven.” **“Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. [And] when the disciples heard this, they were ... astonished and [they] said, ‘Then who can be saved?’” (19:24-25)** If it’s that hard for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, and it’s talking about an opening in a door, then how can anyone be saved? **“And looking at them Jesus said ..., ‘With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” (Matthew 19:26)** You see [“what God calls you and me to do He enables us to do.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Thessalonians 5:24) And yet this is what it takes. It takes full and complete surrender. It means that you hold nothing back. This young man had kept those commandments. And yet, what Jesus was showing them was this, you have worshiped something else more than Me. You’ve worshiped your riches. The question is Beloved, what are you unwilling to let go of so that you might follow Jesus Christ? Because He calls us to surrender everything that we have. Remember, “If any man is going to come after me let him deny himself, let him take up his cross—an instrument of death; it’s death to me and it is life to God, and let him follow Me as a habit of life.” “[And] **Peter said to [Jesus], ‘Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man will sit on His glorious throne, you ... shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’” (Matthew 19:27-28)** I want you to know that I am calling you to forsake everything. And I’m telling you

that it's your riches that keep you. It's the riches of this young man that is keeping him from following Me. It's very hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven because he has his hands on the temporal. He has his focus on the temporal and he's unwilling to let it go for the eternal. But He said, ["I also want you to know and I want you to understand this,"] He said, ["when you leave everything and you follow Me, then in the regeneration you're going to be rewarded."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 19:28) **"...Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne...." (Matthew 19:28)** Here is the Son of Man before him. Here is the Son of Man going to be crucified. Here is the Son of Man, listen, that has laid down His life, that has given us an example: everything for the will of God, nothing held back. **"...The Son of Man... [came not] to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)** And if we're going to be a follower of Him then, we have to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. But someday He's coming back. Someday He's going to sit on His glorious throne. And He looks at Peter who asked Him this question: **"...We have left everything" (Matthew 19:27)** We have left our possessions. We have left our home. We have left our family to follow You. ["Lord, what will it be for us?"] (PARAPHRASE, 19:27) And He's saying, "It will be great for you. It will be great for you." Because He goes on to say, **"...You ... shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit..., what? "...Eternal life." (Matthew 19:28-29)** We get so confused, Beloved, about what it means to follow Jesus Christ. We think we can just say the words. We can just say that we're a Christian. But our Christianity is seen in our lifestyle. Our Christianity is seen in our surrender. Our love of God is not just seen in our words and our hands lifted up in praise. But our love of God is seen in our consecration and our call to

the cross where [it's not me that lives, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live I live by the faith in the Son of God who lived and died for me.] (PARAPHRASE, Galatians 2:20) And then Jesus turns and He says, **“But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.” (Matthew 19:30)** And you say, “What does He mean by that?” We'll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

It was along this ancient road that led from the Galilee down to Judea that Jesus made this statement, [“But the first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 19:30) Now when you come to that statement it's very hard to understand what He's saying and the chapter ends. But the text does not end. Remember the chapter divisions are man-made. They're not divinely selected. And so you must keep on reading which brings me to a principle of Bible study. When you don't understand something that is said, keep reading. Don't try to figure it out on your own. But rather, look at the text. Work with the text and wait upon the Spirit of God to open the eyes of your understanding. Well if you want to understand what He means when He says, **“But many who are first will be last;... the last, first,” (Matthew 19:30)** which is the thirtieth verse of Matthew 19, you keep reading. In 20 it says, **“For the kingdom of heaven...,” (Matthew 20:1)** “For the kingdom of heaven,” do you see the “for?” It adds as a conjunction there. **“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner....” (Matthew 20:1)** Once again we want to mark “the kingdom of heaven.” The King is going; the King of the Jews is headed toward Jerusalem. There He's going to be crucified. There, they're going to put above the top of the cross **“...King of the Jews.” (Matthew 27:37)** And it's the King of the Jews that is teaching about the kingdom. And we want to learn everything that we can about that kingdom, even as He wanted those that were following Him on this trip from the Galilee down to Judea about the kingdom of heaven. So He says, **“...The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early**

in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [And] when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing [idly] in the market place.” (Matthew 20:1-3) He went out about the third hour and saw others standing around idly in the market place. It’s so important that you mark time. So you want to put a clock over “early in the morning” and then when you get to verse 3 and it says, “**...He went out about the third hour and saw others standing in the market place,**” (Matthew 20:3) put a clock around there. Remember He’s teaching them that “**...many [that] are first will be last; and the last [will be] first,**” (19:30) and He’s giving us an explanation. He’s telling a story. He used stories so often to make His point. And in the market places you would find sundials. It was the sundial that the people would look at so that they in turn might know what time of day it is. When the sun hits it, it casts a shadow. It casts a shadow according to where the sun is in the sky. So on the sundial you would have the first hour, the second hour, the third hour, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, dividing it in half. It’s narrower up at the top for the winter seasons and broader at the bottom for the summer. So he’s standing in the marketplace. He can look at the sundial. They know exactly what time it is. It says that it is the third hour and he sees men standing around there idly in the market place. And it goes on to say, “**And to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give [to] you....’**” I will pay you a fair wage. “**...And so they went. Again he went out about the sixth [hour] and the ninth hour, and [he] did the same thing.**” (Matthew 20:4-5) Where did he come? He came back to the marketplace. He came back to the sundial. And there were men standing idly about and he sends them into his vineyard and he says, “I will give you what is right.” And then it says, “**And [it came] about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing idle all day long?’ [And] they said to him, ‘Because no one**

hired us.’ [And] he said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’”
(**Matthew 20:6-7**) Now it’s the eleventh hour. The day is about up and yet he’s sending them into the vineyard. People have been working in that vineyard since early in the morning. Now the day’s almost over and he’s sending another group out. And it says, **“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.’”** (**Matthew 20:8**) Pay the one that went out at the eleventh hour first, and then come down to those that went early in the morning. **“[And] when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.”** (**Matthew 20:9**) Hey, he had hired them for a denarius and they hadn’t come into the field until the eleventh hour. **“[And] when those [who were] hired... came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. [And] when they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, saying, ‘These ... men ...worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden [of] the scorching heat of the day.’ But he answered and [he] said to ... them, ‘Friend, [am I] doing you ... wrong...;’ I’m not doing you wrong, “... did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give...,” I wish to give “... this last man the same as ... you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what [I] own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?” ‘So the last shall be first, and the first last.’”** (**Matthew 20:10-16**) What is He saying? He is saying this. “I have had people in My vineyard working for Me and I am going to keep on bringing people in. I am going to keep on bringing people into My kingdom and I am going to give them the blessing of eternal life and don’t you complain. Just know that you got what I promised you and they are getting what I want to give them.” So many times we think, “Oh, you know, I’ve done this and I’ve done that and I’ve been a Christian so long and I deserve more.” No, no, Beloved. What is the gift that we get? What did He say to Peter? He said, [“Listen, they’re going to be

rewarded, but they're going to inherit eternal life."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 19:29) It's a picture to me of the Jews who are the first, who come to know and believe in Jesus Christ. And yet then, at the last minute, so to speak, at the end of the age we have the Gentiles coming up. And so the Jews are going to get the same thing that the Gentiles. It says, "[The] **first [shall] be last; and the last, shall [be] first.**" (Matthew 19:30) So many times we think, Precious Ones, that we have an edge with God. No you don't. He gives to all the wonderful gift of eternal life. And so God's question to you today is this. Do you wish to follow Him? Do you wish to follow Him? Are you willing to say goodbye to everything in this life in order to inherit eternal life? Or do you want to hold on to the things of this world and miss the things of eternity? This is what you need to think about. You need to think about these things. And remember the [Son of Man is coming and His reward is with Him.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 40:10 & Revelation 22:12) He will reward you according to your faithfulness.