

Studies in the Life of Christ

NT Survey Lesson 37--Matthew 19-20

Introduction: Matthew also presents material from the later Perea and Judean ministry. In this lesson we will consider some of the lessons Jesus taught on divorce, God's rewards, and humility.

Lesson aim: To emphasize the principles of discipleship taught by Jesus.

A discussion of divorce--Matthew 19:1-12

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus? Why?
2. How did Jesus answer? Was it "yes" or "no"?
3. Did they think Jesus' teaching contradicted the command of Moses? Did it?
4. How can one commit adultery in divorce and remarriage?
5. What kind of response did the strictness of the marriage law bring out in the disciples? How did Jesus answer?

The parable of the landowner--Mt. 20:1-16

1. Is the parable of Matthew 20 a response to the thought expressed by Peter that the disciples had left everything and followed the Lord? Does it explain the phrase "But many who are first will be last, and the last first"? (Compare 19:30 with 20:16)
2. Describe the process by which laborers were hired by the landowner to work in his vineyard.
3. How much were each of the men paid at the end of the day? Was this fair?
4. What principle of rewards is Jesus illustrating in this parable?
5. Why was it important for the disciples to understand this principle? Why is it important for us to understand this principle?

A mother seeks preferment for her sons--Matthew 20:20-38

1. What did the mother of the sons of Zebedee ask of Jesus?
2. Upon what basis did Jesus suggest such a position would be granted?
3. Were James and John prepared to do this? Did Jesus say they would do this?
4. Why could Jesus not grant the position requested to James and John?
5. How did the rest of the disciples react to this request?
6. What lesson did Jesus teach the disciples on this occasion?