

Matthew 18 - 19:15

▼Intro/Review

- The transfiguration
- The link between the power of God and intimacy with God.
- Jesus starts harping on the death and resurrection to the dismay of the disciples. It must be important!
- Didn't finish 17, felt the last bit worked better with 18.
- Alliteration time! Respect, reconciliation, relationship.

▼Respect. With respect often comes a sense of entitlement. This is the opposite of what it looks like to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus. Jesus respect is the kind that see self and others rightly.

▼17:24-27

- Don't think too highly of yourself. You are not above the ordinary. Don't think too lowly of yourself. You are not below the extraordinary in Jesus.
- CCCM pastors cleaning bathrooms.
- Students at CCBC, don't despise the day of small things. Humble yourself to the top!

▼18:1-6

- Quite the leading question!
- turn and become - means to change from one thing into another, from being one to being another. Some say convert. Not in an evangelistic sense. Like a power converter (the one I fried in Australia). Being a Christian, being a disciple, involves a voluntary change, a willing change, because one recognizes the need, not out of obligation.
- What does it mean to be child-like? When an 8 year old is not on a sugar high or locked into a video game, they can be very humble, cooperative, trusting, obedient creatures. Rachael, Dad, piano, head, glasses. Being like that is what it looks like to be the greatest.
- Causing people to stumble and the balance between freedom and being an example.

▼18:7-9 Kind of a tangent.

- Respecting others. Respecting yourself.
- Free will argument? Answer to the issue is yes.
- The idea of going to Hell, even purgatory, and people thinking it will have been worth it, they will be with friends. Milton - "It's better to rule in Hell than serve in Heaven." Not quite.
- 18:10-14 When we understand how God sees us and others, how He values us and others, a right respect for all should be the fruit. Personify the sheep.

▼Reconciliation. Where there is the right respect for self and for others, there will be reconciliation.

▼18:15-20 Church discipline? More like church reconciliation.

▼18:15

- May I humbly suggest that one takes it before the Lord first.
- The goal is reconciliation. In this whole process, even at the end, the goal is reconciliation.

●18:16-20 Walk it through

▼18:21-35 Reconciliation horizontally will effect reconciliation vertically

- Walk it through

- **Is this works based salvation? Not at all. It's part of the tension between Romans and James. Romans - it's not what you do, it's what you are. James - what you do will demonstrate what you are.**

▼ **Relationship. When we have the right respect for ourselves and each other, the result will be reconciliation horizontally and vertically, demonstrated in right relationships horizontally and vertically.**

▼ **19:1-12**

- **Context is important. Question rooted in debate on schools of oral Torah interpretation. Motivation rooted in flesh, selfishness.**
- **The danger here is taking an issue Jesus freed from legalism and turing that into legalism.**
- **19:3 The questions is from the perspective and is about the one seeking to get a divorce, not the one on the receiving end.**
- **Divorce is not the unforgivable sin to God and it should not be to man, so long as repentance is real and reconciliation has been sought.**
- **Not going to attempt to address every possible situation, going to address the one being asked. Please don't nail me to the wall for something I didn't say or something I might have inferred. Refer to "Repentance and Grace," October 2010.**
- **19:4-6 Jesus makes pre-Law case for permanency of divorce. That is God's plan, that is God's best.**
- **19:7 Pharisees follow-up question is from the perspective of seeing flaws in the other person.**
- **19:8 Jesus' answer points out that the problem isn't the other, it's the one seeking the divorce.**

▼ **19:9 Jesus takes it a step further and points out that the issue goes far deeper than an oral Torah issue. It's one of idolatry/adultery.**

- **Make disclaimer, point out traditional teaching, understanding, my own teaching.**
- **Make case for emPHAsis on wrong sylABle. Jesus isn't giving out out for marriage, would contradict what He just said. Emphasis is on heart issue and committing adultery.**
- **NLT of this verse. "And I tell you this, a man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery--unless his wife has been unfaithful." In which case the man is not committing adultery. "And the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery." Again, context of getting out of marriage, not an absolute blanket statement.**
- **NLT of Matthew 5:32. "But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."**
- **Read in light of Mark 10 account. The point isn't to offer a legit out of marriage, but to point out heart issue.**
- **One who has the respect for self and the other will seek reconciliation no matter what, resulting in right relationship.**
- **Look at the response of the disciples. Probably mirrored that of Pharisees. They were shocked by this as well.**
- **19:13-15 Some mor kiddies. Back to respect.**

▼ **Wrap up**

- **Right respect only through Jesus.**
- **Reconciliation only possible through Jesus, ministry of reconciliation.**
- **Relationships are a reflection of the one with God through Jesus. None more so that in**

marriage. We commit adultery on Jesus all the time. Does He divorce us?