

Matthew 19 –5 January 2020

“Our Posture For Approaching God”

Introduction

Read Vs 1-2

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

Jesus is getting ready to go down to Judaea where He'll die on the cross

With every person Christ encounters, He's challenging them to consider what the motivation of their heart is.

What characterizes your relationship with God?

What is your posture as you approach God?

Today we'll look at 4 classes of people which epitomize **4 ways we can act in relation to God.**

1st Way we can act in relation to God is as a Worker (Vs 3-12)

Read Vs 3

1. The Worker (represented by a circle) is always trying to find the edge of what is acceptable.
 - a. Instead of being in the center of Christ's heart, they want to know where the edge is.
 - b. How much can I sin & still be a Christian?
2. The Worker is epitomized by scheming, arguing and negotiating.
3. So their question about divorce hearkens back to the Law of Moses.
 - a. Their ancestors and rabbis have interpreted many traditions and rules based on the Law.

Read Vs 4-6

1. God's best for man didn't begin at the giving of the Law to Moses, that's when it was codified!
2. God's design for man has ALWAYS been the same!

3. Jesus doesn't answer, "Why can divorce happen", He answers that bigger question, "Why did marriage happen in the first place".
4. How great is God - He wants us to understand how things were actually designed to work!

Read Vs 7-8

1. Read Deut 24:1
 - a. The Law of Moses allowed for divorce in cases where there was already sin.
 - b. This was to limit EVEN MORE SIN.
 - c. Exp: Eye for eye was to limit further sin.
2. "But from the beginning, it was not so"
 - a. In ideal environment, it's NOT God's best.
3. The Worker is always striving to be acceptable to God, never quite sure.
 - a. There is no rest.
 - b. If I do this, will I still be acceptable? If I do that, will I still be acceptable?

Read Vs 9

1. Here, Christ makes it one notch more distinct.
2. Don't break the relationship in writing, unless it's already been broken in reality. (Thru this sin)
3. Jesus - not outward action but the inward heart.
4. Don't be the one who break the relationship with inward thoughts that become outward actions.
 - a. Read Matt 5:27-28
 - b. Divorce paperwork is formality, not reality

Read Vs 10-12

1. Disciples-marriage is exclusive, Jesus agrees.
2. Jesus also says that not all need to get married to serve in God's ideal best way!
 - a. Read I Cor 7:32-33
 - b. Some can serve Lord fuller if not married.
3. Three cases for eunuchs in vs 12
 - a. No one should be forced to marry.
 - b. But also, no one should be forced to be unmarried (see I Tim 4:3)

2nd Way we can act in relation to God is as a Worshipper (Vs 13-15)

Read Vs 13-15

1. The Worshipper (represented by hands) simply reaching out to God.
 - a. Not to DO anything, just to be with God.
2. In Matt 18 we just saw...
 - a. The faith of a child, coming to Christ
 - b. The acceptance of a child in God's eyes
3. Turn to Luke 10:38-42 – Mary and Martha
 - a. Worship is the only necessity
4. Notice again vs 15
 - a. Jesus gave them a specific touch
 - b. The one whose hands simply reach out to Christ, is the one who will be touch by Christ's very hands!

3rd Way we can act in relation to God is as Wonderful (Vs 16-26)

Read Vs 16-17

1. What is the standard for good?
2. The Wonderful person (represented by a whited sepulcher) may look perfect on the outside, but are rotten on the inside.
3. Jesus is saying the only one good is God and yes that is Him!
4. Good is morally perfect and pure.
5. Jesus points him to the 10 Commandments

Read Vs 18-19

6. Jesus points him first to the 2nd half of the 10 Commandments (those in relation to man)
7. The Law will work effectually in the life of a sinner, but The Wonderful won't see its use.
 - a. Turn to I Tim 1:8-10
 - b. Read Rom 3:19 – every mouth stopped

Read Vs 20

1. In relation to man, he's be "doing good".
2. But his dependence is in himself and not God.
 - a. He esteems himself, not God.
 - b. Turn to Luke 16:13-15 – abomination to God

Read Vs 21-22

1. There comes a day for every "Wonderful" person where their own resources and riches are not enough to deliver them.
 - a. Turn to Luke 12:15-21
 - b. Are u Wonderful & depending on yourself?
2. The 1st half of the 10 Commandment points us to our need of God to actually be our "God".
 - a. Dependence on God, brings new life!
 - b. The dead inside of the sepulcher is brought to life form the inside out.

Read Vs 23-24

1. Being rich isn't a problem, depending on riches more than depending on God is the problem.
2. Parallel account in Mark 10:24 – Read
 - a. Those that trust in riches.
3. Camel thru the eye of a needle
 - a. This is no “Needle Gate” to Jerusalem
 - b. He means a needle – this is confirmed by the very next verse.

Read Vs 25-26

1. The Wonderful need to accept that their merits aren't even a little bit helpful in attaining eternity.
2. Humankind is absolutely depraved.
3. Read John 15:5 – you can do nothing
4. You've heard song, “Can't Buy Me Love”?
 - a. You certainly can't buy eternity.

4th Way we can act in relation to God is as a Worrier (Vs 27-30)

Read Vs 27

1. The Worrier (represented by wondering eyes) is always concerned about their own security.
 - a. Security in relation to provision
 - i. Turn to Matt 6:31-34
 - ii. God knows how to provide just what you need...trust Him.
 - b. Security in relation to God
 - i. Turn to Phil 4:6-7
 - ii. God knows how to provide just what you need...trust Him.
 - c. Security in relation to others
 - d. Here in Matt 19:28-30

Read Vs 28-30

1. Speaking of Lot, Peter reminds us of II Pet 2:9
2. We just need to focus our eyes on Christ
 - a. Read Matt 6:22 – Let your eye be single

Conclusion –

We've seen 4 Ways we can act in relation to God

1. We can be a **Worker**
 - a. We can't negotiate your way into heaven?
 - b. Our heart is revealed by whether you're striving for the heart of Christ or the outer edge of what's acceptable.
2. We can be a **Worshipper**
 - a. Our empty hands should reach out to God
 - b. God loves you right now, you can come to him.
3. We can be **Wonderful**
 - a. God = infinitely good & us = infinitely bad.
 - b. Our own greatness can never deliver us from the bondage of sin
4. We can be a **Worrier**
 - a. Don't be distracted by others gains.
 - b. God sees you and knows how to reward you