

The Rich Young Man

Matthew 19

by Don Falkos

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When asked about divorce Jesus said, "Moses allowed divorce as a concession to your weakness of character. God intended marriage to be permanent."

The disciples asked, "Then would it be better not to marry?"

Jesus replied, "Not many are suited to remain single. But if God calls you to that life, accept it."

Some people brought their children to Jesus hoping he might pray for them. The disciples tried to send them away. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the one who is as trusting as a child." Then he blessed the children.

A man asked Jesus, "Teacher, what good thing do I need to do to earn eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you ask me about good? Only God is good. But you know the commandments: don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, honor your father and mother, love your neighbor as you love yourself."

"I've always obeyed those commands."

"If you want to be complete, go, sell all that you have and give the money to the poor; you'll have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

The young man went away disappointed because he was very rich.

Jesus said to his disciples, "It would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God. No one can be saved on their own, but God can do anything. When the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne and this world is transformed, you'll be there with me. If you've left home or family for my sake, you'll receive many times as much in return. Everything will be turned upside down and inside out as you experience life as God intended it."