



Lessons from the Master

By Ken Terry on December 19, 2022

READING: Matthew 19

In our reading today, Jesus is tested by the Pharisees regarding the issue of divorce. Their question was based on disputes between some contemporaries of Jesus at that time. Jesus in His beautiful way of speaking answered their question with scripture, Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. Jesus described the high standard set by God Almighty for marriage. The Pharisees then misrepresent Moses in Deuteronomy 24.1, stating that a divorce certificate can be granted for any reason at all. The correct rendering is if the wife is involved in some act of uncleanness, sexual sin, then the divorce certificate would be granted. What Jesus does next is what he does so well, He exposed the underlying issue at hand. *"He said to them, 'Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so'"* (Matthew 19:8).

This lofty standard for marriage was difficult for Jesus disciples to grasp. Some of them may have been in circles where divorce decrees were given like they are today in our society. Therefore, the disciples asked Jesus, *"If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."* (Matthew 19:10). Jesus answers their question on the unmarried. He states that not everyone can accept this, meaning that only certain people can remain unmarried.

Jesus gave differing examples of why there are eunuchs. Some were born into that life from their mother's womb, some made eunuchs by other men through violence, and some made the decision themselves for a life of service. The point Jesus is making is that no matter what circumstance led people to a eunuch's way of life, they are there for a purpose. This lifestyle was given to them, gifted from God for His divine purpose. But He said to them, *"All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given."* (Matthew 19:11 NKJV).

Further in our passage Jesus teaches that all who come to Him should do so with childlike wonder and humility. Jesus also shared with a rich young ruler what is involved to secure eternal life in His Kingdom: total surrender and complete detachment of yourself from people, places and possessions that will distract and draw you away from Him.

These lessons from the Master are easy to understand, however they can be very difficult to follow, as it relates to our own strength. I encourage everyone to evaluate your life to ensure that you are obeying God's word to the letter. Not picking and choosing what you would believe as the Pharisees in our reading. I also would ask that you look at your lives and try not to be someone that you are not. Do not try to keep up with the most popular or most attractive persona that you think is good. There's only One who is good, that's God. Let us look deep in our souls and focus on the God-given talents given you and serve in God's Kingdom like those eunuchs. Everyone has a purpose, and everyone has been given all things necessary to carry

out those purposes by God. I encourage you to do this for one reason, to perpetuate the Kingdom of God! All who surrender and follow Jesus will be rewarded!

"So Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'" (Matthew 19:28-30 NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we come to You in childlike wonder today. Father, we ask that Your Holy Spirit continue to transform our hearts and minds into Your Son, Jesus, the Christ image. We thank You, Father, for our reading today and the lessons from Jesus. Father, help us meditate on them and incorporate these concepts in our lives. We ask this in Christ's holy name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 20

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