

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 19 v. 11-15

Jesus goes on to explain how on to give an example of how rigidly people should follow the instructions given towards those who divorce. (v. 11-12)

Why would the statement that Jesus made in verse 10 be hard for people to accept?

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- Jesus is acknowledging here that his instruction is FAR different from that of the people or even the law of the Pharisees.
 - It is important to recognize this rigidity only applies to those who are divorced. This is not the norm, nor is it how standard marriages should be treated.

What is a Eunuch? Why would Jesus use this type of person as an example?

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- It is important to recognize here that Jesus is not recommending for divorced people to physically make themselves Eunuchs, but is simply using this type of person.
 - What are the 3 “types of Eunuchs that people either are or are told to be in verse 12?”
 - 1st: Eunuchs from “birth”. These represent people that will simply never marry, or choose not to marry. The apostle Paul would be an example of this.
 - 2nd: Eunuchs “made by men”. These represent women who have been divorced for reasons outside of unfaithfulness that aren’t of their error, but are called to abstain from sexual relationships none the less (Matthew 5:32).
 - 3rd: Eunuchs who act as such for the sake of the Kingdom. These represent men who have been divorced due to their own unfaithfulness, but have repented and will remain abstinent and unmarried in order to honor God.
 - It is important to note Jesus does not institute these things to “punish” people who are divorced, but to help keep them from living in sin. The people of Israel perform a similar action in Ezra 10.

After giving these instructions, little children are brought to Jesus that he may pray over them. (v. 13-15)

Why is it that people would bring their children to Jesus? _____

- As we’ve seen multiple times throughout Matthew, people are starting to truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah. If the people didn’t believe Jesus could heal or bless their children, then they wouldn’t be seeking Him out.
- How do the Disciples respond to this? _____
- Are the Disciples trying to be malicious by sending them away? By no means! By sending them away they are trying to help Jesus or keep him from being “bothered”.
 - Are there times where we can hold people back from Christ or inhibit an opportunity to minister to them thinking that we are doing right? _____-

- We must make sure as believers that we don't act as the Disciples do here when we meet with people that may be living in sin but are trying to learn more about Christ. Jesus doesn't ask for us to be righteous when we come to Him, He will make us like Him in time.

How does Jesus respond to the children approaching Him? _____

- What does Jesus mean when he says "for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these"?
 - Jesus is referring to the attitude of these children. They are approaching Him and seeking after Him. As children of God we should have the same attitude that these children show here.
 - Notice the reward for these children seeking after Jesus. Jesus doesn't simply let them near Him, but also prays for them.