

2019-2020 Bible Study

#25

3/24/20

Matthew 20

3/17/20

A Prayer to be recited before reading the Sacred Scriptures

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
- Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created.
- And thou shall renew the face of the earth
- *Let Us Pray*
- O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
- Through Christ our Lord



The New Moody Atlas of the Bible, By Barry J. Beitzel
Moody Publishers, Chicago IL

Outline for Matthew 20

- **Matthew 20**
- The Laborers in the Vineyard
- A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection
- The Request of the Mother of James and John
- Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

The Kingdom of Heaven

- God the Father established a covenant with:
 - **Abraham** which stipulated that He was to be His God and his descendants were to be His people
 - **Moses** which contained the Law depicting how God wished to be worshipped by His people
 - **David** which promised the existence of a human king for the people of God who would sit on the throne of Israel forever
- Jesus established a covenant with all of mankind which affords them with the means of attaining the forgiveness of their sins, the end of death, and eternal life

The Kingdom of Heaven (Cont)

- The Kingdom of Heaven (in Matthew's gospel) can also be understood as:
 - The Kingdom of God
 - The Kingdom of Israel
 - The Kingdom of David
- It should be understood to be about the coming of the Church (the Ecclesia, the gathering, the new way) whose marks include:
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic

The Kingdom of Heaven (Cont)

- This Kingdom exists in the following three places:
 - The church militant – on earth
 - The church suffering – in purgatory
 - The church triumphant – in Heaven
- Our Lord dwells among us (tabernacled) in every Catholic church in the world, and makes Himself sacrificially and sacramentally available to us in every Mass

Matthew 20

- **Matthew 20:1-15** *“For the **kingdom of heaven** is like a householder...Or do you begrudge my generosity?”*
 - Here, Jesus continues His theme of the first being last and the last first in the **kingdom of heaven** by using the parable of a householder seeking laborers for his vineyard throughout the day
 - The passage ends by repeating this same theme

Matthew 20

- **Matthew 20:16** *“So the last will be first, and the first last”*
 - Father pointed out that this does not come out well in English
 - It should read, *“The first shall be **as the last**, and the last **as the first**”*
 - It means that **everyone should be equal** and gets the same pay no matter when they started working
 - It does not mean that those who were first were to get to the back of the line and those who were last get to the front
 - What it should say was that all would be treated equal

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- The idea was that since Jesus was going to Jerusalem, it was the last chance for the people to repent and accept Him as the Messiah
- Father said that the people were joining this movement right up to this point in time
- At the very last minute, there were people joining His ministry
- And after three years of rejecting Jesus, even some of the Pharisees were starting to realize that this was the “coming of the kingdom”
- So, what Jesus was showing His disciples through this parable was that they not only should remember this event, but that people still had a chance at salvation (as Jesus will never reject them)

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- **Matthew 20:17-19** *“And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,...and he will be raised on the third day”*
 - Jesus was reminding His disciples for the **third time** that they were going to Jerusalem and the Jewish leaders were going to kill him
 - He told them not forget this
 - Further, that He would be raised from the dead!
 - But, once again the disciples were not listening to Him

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- **Matthew 20:20-28** *“Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him,...and to give his life as a ransom for many”*
 - Father suggested that (Salome) the mother of James and John said to Jesus, “Lord, when we get to Jerusalem, I know you are going to kill everybody and stuff, as we conquer all our enemies, but can my sons sit on your left and right?”
 - Wouldn’t that be nice?
 - So Jesus asked if they could drink from the cup he will drink from?
 - This meant, Were they willing to take up the cross and follow him?

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- The boys said that they could drink from His cup
 - Father pointed out that in that time a king would drink from a large bowl which he would pass to those sitting in the seats of honor on his right and left
 - They would share the king's drink and food (the best stuff)
- Then Jesus told them that decision was not for him to make as it was to be determined by His Father
- Then, He told them that they would drink from the same chalice (this was referring to his death and resurrection)

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- As we know James was the first of the apostles to be martyred for the Church
- And John was the last (even though he made it through the attempted martyrdom and died a natural death)
- Thus, James and John were bookends to the apostolic martyrdom

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- **Matthew 20:29-34** *“And as they went out to Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the roadside, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, have mercy on us, son of David!...And immediately they received their sight and followed him”*
 - Notice that when Jesus reached Jericho, a great crowd was with Him
 - Jericho, was seen as the gateway to Jerusalem, as one would around the Judean hills rising up to Jerusalem (Jericho is approximately 850’ below sea level, and Jerusalem is 3800’ above sea level)
 - Most of the crowds going to the festivals pass through Jericho, (the last place one could get water), and the last stop before Jerusalem

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- As this was the time of Passover, in late springtime, it was very hot
- The terrain was very barren with only a few shepherds and sheep moving about
- Most often, people would spend the night in Jericho before heading up to Jerusalem
- At this point, we meet the two blind men sitting by the roadside who heard that Jesus was passing by
- They cried out to Him, “Have mercy on us son of David” because they realized that He was the Messiah

Matthew 20 (Cont)

- Jesus asked what they wanted and they replied to him, “Lord let our eyes be opened”
- With pity, Jesus touched their eyes and restored their sight and followed Him
- Father pointed out that Jesus did not caution them concerning the “messianic secret”
- At this point (and again in **Matthew 21**), Jesus was fully public and ready to die and be raised from the dead
- The foundation for the kingdom of God had been laid, and the apostles were prepared for what was to come
- We will now turn to the continuation of the story in **Matthew 21**

The Saint Raymond Prayer

- Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron,
come to the aid of those entrusted to your care,
and all who flee to your protection.
Intercede for us in our need,
and help us through your prayers, example, and
teaching,
to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet.
And when we have reached the fullness of our years,
we beseech you to guide us home to heaven,
to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our
Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hail Mary Prayer

- Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of death. Amen.