



Jesus on Family, Relationships, and Possessions Pt 4: Have Ye not Read?

January 9, 2022

Holy Text: Matthew 19:1-6

1. From the reading, we see that our LORD has left Galilee and entered the coasts of Judea (v1). John MacArthur noted that “Perea was the name of the region just east of the Jordan River. It was not technically part of Judea, but the territory ruled by Herod the Great had included both regions, and it was commonly referred to this way. Christ's ministry in Perea lasts only a few months. It is from here that He will make His final journey to Jerusalem just prior to Passion Week (Mat 20:17-19).”
2. Once there, after teaching on mercy and compassion, Jesus turned Himself towards the needs and hurts of those who followed after Him, as was His pattern (v2). Jesus is a loving and compassionate Savior, as illustrated often in the Gospels:

Matthew 9:35-38 (KJV) *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.***

Matthew 15:32 (KJV) *Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, **I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.***

Matthew 18:27 (KJV) *Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

3. The Pharisees, true to form, also held to their increasing pattern of animosity towards our LORD, attempting to trick/trap Jesus with and within the Old Testament Law (v3).

Deuteronomy 24:1-2 (KJV) *When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*

4. The trap was based the varying views of the divorce among various segments of Jews. His answer would antagonize some faction and make Him more enemies. One commentary summarizes their intent this way:

To know how entangling the question was it is necessary to remember that there was a dispute at the time between two rival schools of Jewish theology—the school of Hillel and that of Shammai—in regard to the interpretation of Deu 24:1. The one school held

that divorce could be had on the most trivial grounds (Hillel); the other restricted it to cases of grievous sin (Shammai).¹

5. Please note that our LORD already answered this question:

Matthew 5:31-32 (KJV) *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

6. And He would go on to answer it again in Matthew 19:7-9 as we will read. But we think it's worth taking the time today to consider **how** and **why** the LORD answered the question. He appealed to Genesis to begin His correction of their misuse of Scripture. In doing so, He does a few wonderful things for us by affirming the Genesis account.

“Have Ye not Read?” The Power of Jesus’ Question

First, one of the most attacked and vilified sections of Scripture is the opening book. In terms of “how,” by pointing us back to Genesis and viewing it as **authoritative**, Jesus our LORD is on record as declaring it's sufficiency and authenticity. This is important! By affirming Genesis...

1. Jesus affirms the Creation account. God created the heavens and the earth in six days. (Gen 1:1, 31). Evolution is a lie, and all paradigms, worldviews, and streams of thought based on evolution are false. (Atheism, Humanism, Nihilism, Racism, etc.)
2. Jesus affirms Man's creation in God's image. (Gen 1:26-28) Only man was created with the capacity to be personal with God! Man alone among God's earthly creatures was designed with many of God's communicable attributes, including the ability to love, reason, show mercy and grace, plan, be self-aware, and communicate with Him. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of the Creator!
3. Jesus affirms a literal Adam and Eve and the Marriage Covenant. (Gen 2:7, 18, 21-25) Adam and Eve were two actual human beings. God put them together in the Garden of Eden as husband and wife and their union remains the most pure type of the heavenly antitype, the LORD and His bride (the Church).
4. Jesus affirms Man's fall into sin. (Gen 3:6-7). By Man's choosing to rebel against His Creator, creation was thrown into chaos and death entered our reality. Sin in lawlessness and remains our main problem.
5. Jesus affirms God's Redemptive Plan! (Gen 3:15). Although the Seed of the Woman's (Christ) heel was bruised, the serpent's head was too! In Jesus, Paradise lost is Paradise restored!

1 John 3:8 (KJV) *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

¹ The Preacher's Homiletical Commentary, 1978.

6. Jesus affirms the basic Roles of Marriage! (Gen 3:16-19). The woman would have great difficulty bearing children and would desire to lead, but would be ruled over by her husband. The man would be forced to work hard to lead and provide, but meet with great frustration in the doing.
7. Jesus affirms the reality of the Spiritual World and War. (Gen 3). Satan (the serpent) is real. So are angels. Mankind would be apart of this conflict until the Consummation of all things. And so much more:
 - The generational and relational effects of sin, Cane killing his brother Abel (Gen 4)
 - The shortening of life due to sin (Gen 5). Adam 936 yrs, Methuselah 969, to not more than 120yrs (Gen 6:3)
 - The angelic incursion and the resulting wickedness (Gen 6)
 - The judgment of worldwide flood and its results (Gen 6-9)
 - The replenishing of the earth and God's scattering at the Tower of Babel (Gen 10-11)
 - The call of Abraham and the life of the patriarchs and their sons, and more!

Secondly, in terms of "why," here is the principle: **God's Word, rightly divided, always has the answer!** Whether it be a direct precept, a principle that requires godly wisdom, or a pattern to follow, Scripture is Sufficient! So when you are asked a good question, the answer is, in a sense, "Have ye not read?"

- Who am I? —> Have ye not read?
- What kind of husband should I be? —> Have ye not read?
- How do I parent and disciple my children? —> Have ye not read?
- How do I handle my money? —> Have ye not read?
- How should we pray? —> Have ye not read?
- How should we worship? —> Have ye not read?
- What pleases God? —> Have ye not read?
- Who is Jesus? —> Have ye not read?
- What must I do to be saved? —> Have ye not read?

When our LORD was tempted by the Devil, three times He declared, "It is written." (Matt 4) Being the Word made flesh, Christ was intimately familiar with the Holy Writ. He spoke the Word, authored the Word, used the Word against the enemy, and IS the Word! How can we possibly live this life in the anointing of God without a relationship with our LRD that flows through His very own precepts and testimonies?

CRC, let us read and heed the holy Words of God! It is the Sword of the Spirit! Therein is sound doctrine, the heart of God for us, comfort, hope, and the pleasant and peaceful ways of godly living.

CRC, Let us read the Bible...

1. Daily
 - **Psalms 1:1-3 (KJV)** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be*

like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

2. Humbly

- **James 1:21 (KJV)** *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

3. Wholeheartedly (with delight)!

- **Psalms 119:10-11 (KJV)** *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
- **Psalms 119:16 (KJV)** *I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*
- **Psalms 119:24 (KJV)** *Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.*
- **Psalms 119:47-48 (KJV)** *And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. 48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.*

4. Hopefully!

- **Psalms 130:5 (KJV)** *I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*
- **Psalms 119:114 (KJV)** *Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.*
- **Psalms 119:42 (KJV)** *So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.*

5. Contextually!

The Bible contains every form of language. Scripture uses historical narratives, didactic teachings, simile, hyperbole, metaphor, types, fantasy imagery, poems, and songs! Let us read the Bible Contextually (Hermeneutically):

- With the author's intent in mind. A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or his or her readers.
- In context. Whenever we share the same context with the original hearers, God's Word to us is the same as His Word to them. When we have a precept in context, we have God's Word on an issue and other passages must be interpreted in light of what is clearly stated.
- Allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. The clear interprets the unclear.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

6. Obediently!

- **James 1:22-25 (KJV)** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

7. Prayerfully!

- **1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
- **1 John 2:27 (KJV)** *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*
- **John 16:13 (KJV)** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

Final Thoughts:

Today, at the start of another year, we paused to reflect upon our LORD's words: "Have you not read?" Many apologies for the redundancy, but the great dilemma of the day (well, actually every "day") is the elevation of man's word above God's Word. We must read and heed the Scriptures. There we will find how to conduct our families, our relationships, our stewardship, and so much more!

Even more importantly, there we will learn the Attributes of God. We will read of His wisdom and sovereignty, His glory, majesty, and splendor, His omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience!

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 (KJV) *Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*

There we are reminded that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is coming again to judge the quick and the dead. There we find strength and hope in the midst of adversity. There we read of His great love for us and his great gift of eternal life.

Romans 5:8-11 (KJV) *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Help us LORD to be faithful readers, hearers, and doers of Thy Word.

Amen!