# Lesson 20 Matthew Chapter 18:15-21, 19:16-26 Rich Young Man

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

Issues Between Christians

1. A. When there is discord between two Christians; Jesus gives three steps for resolving the dispute and one guiding principle. From the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5, Jesus also teaches what our attitude toward our neighbors should be. How successful do you think our resolution of disputes would be if we followed Jesus’ teaching?

Matthew 18:15-17, 20-21

15 “If your brother sins [against you], go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.

16 If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

21 Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 5:39-44

39 But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.

40 If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well.

41 Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.

42 Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

B If you are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute according to the steps Jesus gives, He tells us how to treat our enemy in vs 17. In light of Jesus teaching at the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:44, Jesus words to Peter in vs 21-22, and Jesus’ summary of the parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:35 specifically, how should we treat our enemy?

Matthew 18:35

35 So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.

C Has there ever been a situation in your life where you could have used this teaching of Jesus?

1. A. Where do we see Jesus’ teaching in vs 19-20 come true every week and every day in the Catholic Church; both verses?

Matthew 18:19-20

19 Again, [amen,] I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

B If you believe in the truth of the Bible and the truth of these two verses, how does that simplify and strengthen your belief in one of the Catholic Church’s central dogmas?

C John 14:13-14 adds an important clarification to this promise. Taken together with Matthew 18:19-20, what can you conclude about your personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the Church?

John 14:13-14

13 And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.

Rich Young Man

1. The incident of the rich man represents another theophany in which Jesus demonstrates His divinity. Jesus gradually leads the man to confront who Jesus really is. In vs 17, Jesus says, “There is only One who is good” otherwise translated as “the One God.” Jesus doesn’t actually deny that He is good? In this context, if He does not deny it, what does He implicitly claim?

Matthew 19:16-21

16 Now someone approached him and said, “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?”

17 He answered him, “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He asked him, “Which ones?” And Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness;

19 honor your father and your mother’; and ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

20 The young man said to him, “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?”

21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

1. There are two sections in the Ten Commandments. The first three relate to our relationship with God; the next seven relate to our relationship with our neighbor. When asked by the young man which ones he had to keep, vs 18, instead of saying, “All.” Jesus answers with those pertaining to the relationship with our neighbor, vs 18-19. In answer to his question in vs 20, “What do I still lack?” What is Jesus response and how does it relate to the first section of the Decalogue and his relationship with God?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part Three, Life in Christ, Section Two, the Ten Commandments

* + 1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
    2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
    3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
    4. Honor your father and your mother.
    5. You shall not kill.
    6. You shall not commit adultery.
    7. You shall not steal.
    8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
    9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
    10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

1. When Moses came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, who was their actual author? When Jesus says “Then come, follow me.” What is He claiming about Himself?
2. While wealth and possessions are not bad things in themselves, what kind of danger do they represent in your life with regard to the Kingdom of Heaven?

Matthew 19:22-24

22 When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

24 Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

1. The rich, in Jesus time, had the luxury of living near the Temple for convenience in worship. They had ritual baths in their homes for ritual cleanliness after returning from the market. Ordinary laborers did not have the luxury of interrupting their work for the rigors of ritual purity. In vs 25 we see the astonishment of the disciples. What gift does Jesus refer to in vs. 26 that God gives each person in answer to their astonished question? See Catechism 153.

Matthew 19:25-26

25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, “Who then can be saved?”

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Catechism 153

153…"Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.'"