

D. Living as heirs

Do you often consider the benefits you have *now* as heirs of the kingdom of heaven?

Do you regularly remind other believers of the inheritance we have coming in eternity?

Conclusion: Odd Inheritance Stories

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How does the context of Matthew 19:13-30 “flavor” Jesus’ interactions in this section?
- Why do we, as followers of Jesus, have such a hard time grasping the cross-shaped pattern of the Christian life?
- In what ways might you be in danger of hindering children from coming to Jesus?
- Why is bringing children to Jesus tied to the necessity for Jesus’ followers to be child-like?
- How have you worked to identify the one thing which you could be holding back in following Jesus? Who can you confide this to for accountability?
- What costly things have you been called to give up for the sake of following Jesus?
- In what ways has God given you benefits from your future inheritance in the present?
- How do you stir up other believers to remember the wonders of being an heir of the kingdom of heaven?

Disciple 1.0 (Part 34) Upside Down Heirs

Peter Stonecipher — February 23, 2019

Text: Matthew 19:13-30

Introduction

Odd inheritance stories have some pedigree in God’s word

The teaching of Jesus in Matthew 16 through Matthew 20 is marinating in three separate predictions of Jesus about his death and resurrection

Matthew 16:24

I. The Child-like will Inherit the Kingdom (vv. 13-15)

A. A baffling sequel

Matthew 18:5-6

“Although children in Judaism of the time were deeply cherished, they were thought in some ways to be negligible members of society: their place was to learn, to be respectful, to listen.”

- D.A. Carson

B. The child-like inherit the kingdom

Matthew 6:9-13, 25-34

Jesus’ followers are being challenged to do seemingly foolish things out of obedience to Jesus with their earthly possessions – foolish things only a *child* would do

C. Let the little children come

According to Jesus, praying for little children and blessing them is not a colossal waste of time

Bringing children to Jesus is essential Gospel ministry

D. Building a faithful Gospel witness for this generation *and the next*

Our actions, our priorities, our words are either bringing our children to Jesus or they're hindering them

II. The Wealthy will not Inherit the Kingdom (vv. 16-26)

A. A worthy heir?

We need to at least credit this young man with what seems like a genuine desire to inherit the kingdom of heaven

Commentators are agreed that this young man is probably not claiming absolute moral perfection with his response

B. An unworthy heir

There are signs from the start that this young man may not be an heir of the kingdom of heaven now matter how good he looks

“He has heard the word but wealth has choked it.”

- Warren Carter

C. A gracious explanation to the disciples

D. What's the one thing?

These verses should be a cause for serious self-reflection about what is hindering us from following Jesus

III. “Foolish” Followers will Inherit the Kingdom (vv. 27-30)

A. “Come, follow me”

Unlike the wealthy young man, the disciples *did* leave everything behind to follow Jesus

B. Peter asks a good question!

The disciples aren't exactly living it up as heirs of the kingdom of heaven

C. Jesus' two-fold answer

Heirs of the kingdom of heaven need to be patient to come into their inheritance in its fulness

But foolish followers of Jesus *do* experience tastes of eternal life and treasure in heaven *now*

“God is no man's debtor: if one of Jesus' disciples has, for Jesus' sake left, say, a father, he will find within the messianic community a hundred who will be a father to him – in addition to inheriting eternal life”

- D.A. Carson