

Chapter Twenty

Who Is Greatest?

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus is coming into His final month
- B. He is in the area just northeast of Jerusalem, coming through Jericho towards Bethany

II. Lesson

A. The Parable of the Penny's Wage (20:1-16)

1. A Parable about the Kingdom of heaven – dealing with Israel
2. Particulars of this parable:
 - a. Householder – owner
 - b. Hired labourers – promised to pay them
 - c. Early in the morning – 7am
 - d. His _____
 - 1) Usually refers to a vineyard of Grapes
 - 2) Usually applies to Israel as a nation
 - a) Luke 13:6-9
 - b) Isaiah 5 – wild grapes
3. Promised Pay
 - a. A penny for the day – up to twelve hours labouring in a field
 - b. A silver coin
 - c. The cost of _____
 - d. The “denarius” coin (the Greek drachma) bore on one side a head of one of the current Caesars (Mt 22:19-21).
 - e. This was the common wage of a Roman soldier.
4. Idle Men
 - a. Third hour – 9am
 - 1) Standing in the marketplace
 - 2) Waiting to be hired
 - 3) Now says, “whatsoever is RIGHT I will give you”
 - 4) Who defines what is RIGHT? _____
 - b. Sixth and Ninth Hour – Noon and 3pm - Same thing
 - c. Eleventh Hour
 - 1) Same thing again
 - 2) But this time, rebuking them for not being hired
 - 3) Evidently, it was bad to not be working hard to get work!!!
 - 4) At least they were hired!
5. At Evening – at sunset, 6pm
 - a. The lord of the vineyard – HIS vineyard – the workers worked for HIM!
 - b. He began to pay, from the last hired, to the first
 - c. They each received the same amount – 1 penny
 - d. Those who worked hardest supposed that they would receive _____, yet only received what they were promised
 - e. They began to murmur and complain about NOT getting more
 - f. They realise that the lord had made those who worked least _____ with those that had worked longest and hardest!



6. The Lord's Answer (20:13-16)

- a. He is the goodman of the HOUSE – reference to His household
- b. Answers them as _____, not just servants
- c. Agreed with for a penny
- d. Notice the _____ allows an employer to agree with his workers for a price – not imposed by governments
- e. Is thine eye – what you think and see in this situation EVIL – simply because I am good?

7. The Doctrines Taught here:

- a. God took Israel as His servants early on (Gen 12)
- b. They are God's friends, because of _____ (2Chron 20:7)
- c. God has agreed to reward them for their labours for Him as a nation – not written about individuals
- d. Sought other workers – _____,
_____, _____,

- e. Never broke His contract with Israel! Will keep His promises!
- f. Even to the end of this dispensation, God brought new people into His vineyard
- g. God rewarded them all the same
- h. The LAST (Gentiles) shall be honoured first – children, servants, the weak
- i. Those who were first (the Jews), shall be honoured last – prophetics because of their rejection of Him as the Messiah (Cf Luke 13:28)
- j. All God's servants will be honoured, and rewarded in the Kingdom of heaven – no matter who they were
- k. But not everyone will make it to the resurrection of the just
- l. This parable is meant to teach the Jews to accept the Gentiles and all nations who get saved as _____

B. Jesus Foretells of His Soon Death (20:17-19)

1. Heading into Jerusalem
2. Takes the twelve aside to warn them:
 - a. WE are going to Jerusalem now
 - b. It will not be like any other visit
 - c. What will happen:
 - 1) The Son of Man shall be _____ to the chief priests and scribes
 - a) Everyone knew the religious leaders not only hated Jesus and his disciples
 - b) They were constantly looking for a way to simply kill Him and make a mockery of Him
 - c) Betrayal - To be turned over to the chief priests meant one of his own disciples will turn against Him and that was all the priests needed to start to turn the tide of public opinion against Jesus
 - d) Up to this point, Jesus' popularity was rock solid!
 - 2) He shall be condemned to death
 - 3) They will deliver Him over to the _____ – the hated Roman government
 - 4) He will be mocked, scourged, and crucified – absolute humiliation
 - 5) Three days later he will rise again from the dead!
 - d. It is said as simply a “matter of fact” and _____ really pays attention to any of this stuff!

C. Some Disciples Want to be the _____ (20:20-23)

1. Right then, the _____ of James and John came up wanting something from Jesus
 - a. She was a disciple of Jesus – traveled along with the twelve
 - b. They all knew they were getting close to Jerusalem and all believed it was so that Jesus could be crowned KING
 - c. They all looked forward to a kingdom – not to a crucifixion!

2. She Worships Jesus – knows he is the Son of God
3. She Desires for her two sons to be greatest in the kingdom next to Jesus – worried that PETER would get the job!
4. No one was satisfied with the promise in Mt 19:28
5. It wasn't just HER that wanted it (Cf Mark 10:35)!
6. Jesus _____ her and her two boys (20:22,23)
 - a. Ye know not what ye ask! We rarely do!
 - b. Are ye able to:
 - 1) Drink of the CUP of God's judgment (Ps 75:8)
 - 2) Be BAPTIZED with the death I am about to die?
 - c. They really believe there is nothing to being great! Very superficial
7. Jesus teaches them:
 - a. Ye shall indeed drink of my cup – drink with me of the cup that God will give me -
 - b. _____ like I am about to die
 - c. But to sit on my right and left is not my right to give, but God the Father's!
8. The other ten disciples were infuriated at the cunning attitude of James John (NOT at their mother – THEY evidently motivated her to make such a request) in trying to get such a high position while the others were unaware how to pursue it!

D. Jesus Teaches How to be the Greatest (20:24-29)

1. The Church shall not be like the world!
2. Princes exercise dominion (power) over others – simply because of their great position
3. But it shall not be so with Christians
4. If you want to be great, and be chief:
 - a. Be the minister, the servant – not _____
 - 1) A servant serves willingly
 - 2) A slave has no choice or free will
 - b. Serve not just people, but _____!!!
 - c. Serve like ME!
 - 1) I came not to be ministered unto
 - 2) But I came TO minister – my calling – not to be great
 - 3) To give my LIFE a ransom for so many!
 - 4) How far will you go to be truly GREAT!?
5. Multitudes were waiting for Jesus when he returned from teaching just His disciples (20:29)

E. Jesus Heals _____ Blind Men (20:30-34)

1. When Jesus had come INTO Jericho,
2. Now He and His disciples were _____ and meet _____ blind men
 - a. They both unashamedly cry out for Jesus to have mercy and heal them
 - b. They don't want a hand-out, but to SEE
3. Jesus was moved with compassion, and touched their eyes
4. IMMEDIATELY they were both healed
5. And they followed Jesus
6. According to Mk 10:46-52 He healed only blind Bartemaus
7. It gets a bit more tricky when you compare Luke 18

8. Comparison of Matthew 20 with Mark 10 and Luke 18

| Matthew 20 | Mark 10 | Luke 18 |
|---|---|--|
| Mat 20:29 And as they departed from Jericho , a great multitude followed him. | Mar 10:46 as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people | Luk 18:35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho , |
| Mat 20:30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. | Mar 10:46 And: and, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. Mar 10:47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. | Luk 18:35 a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: Luk 18:36 And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. Luk 18:37 And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. Luk 18:38 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. |
| Mat 20:31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. | Mar 10:48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. | Luk 18:39 And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. |
| Mat 20:32 And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? | Mar 10:49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. Mar 10:50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. Mar 10:51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? | Luk 18:40 And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Luk 18:41 Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? |
| Mat 20:33 They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. | Mar 10:51 The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. | Luk 18:41 And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. |
| Mat 20:34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: | | Luk 18:42 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: |
| Mat 20:34 and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him. | Mar 10:52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way. | Luk 18:42 thy faith hath saved thee. Luk 18:43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. |

9. Conclusion of Matthew 20 with Mark 10 and Luke 18

- a. No contradiction
- b. Matthew describes the _____ men
- c. Mark only describes _____ of the two men – Bartimeaus
- d. Not exactly word for word
- e. Not contradictory, but _____ – fills in details
- f. There evidently was a THIRD healing, BEFORE Jesus and His disciples entered into Jericho
- g. So, Luke 18 happens first, then Matthew and Mark