

How to Move
from Last to First
And experience victory over envy as well
Matthew 19:13-20:28

6/23/13

1. Start over

Matthew 19:13 Then *some* children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

¹⁵ And after laying His hands on them, He departed from there.

2. Destroy distractions

¹⁶ And behold, one came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"

¹⁷ And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;

¹⁹ Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?"

²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

²² But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieved; for he was one who owned much property.

²³ And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴ "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵ And when the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁶ And looking upon *them* Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

3. Envision rewards

²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

²⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

²⁹ "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.

4. Celebrate God's generosity

³⁰ "But many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first.

20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

² "And when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³ "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;

⁴ and to those he said, 'You too go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went.

⁵ "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.

⁶ "And about the eleventh *hour* he went out, and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?'

⁷ "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into the vineyard.'

⁸ "And when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last *group* to the first.'

⁹ "And when those *hired* about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.

¹⁰ "And when those *hired* first came, they thought that they would receive more; and they also received each one a denarius.

¹¹ "And when they received it, they grumbled at the landowner,

¹² saying, 'These last men have worked *only* one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'

¹³ "But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

¹⁴ 'Take what is yours and go your way, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

¹⁵ 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'

¹⁶ "Thus the last shall be first, and the first last."

5. Celebrate Jesus' sacrifice

¹⁷ And as Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them,

¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,

¹⁹ and will deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

6. Serve

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him.

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left."

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."

²³ He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on *My* left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

²⁴ And hearing *this*, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them.

²⁶ "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give life a ransom for many.

All Scripture is from the NASV