

MATTHEW 19

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE (19:1-12)

Blessed Theophylact on becoming “one flesh” in marriage:

(Christ) shows that monogamy is the work and law of Him Who created us at the beginning. For at the beginning, He says, God joined together one man and one woman. So it is not right that one man should be joined to many women, or one woman to many men. But as they were joined together at the beginning, so they should remain, not sundering the marital union without good cause...Therefore, since they have become one flesh, joined together by means of marital relations and physical affection, just as it is accursed to cut one's own flesh, so it is accursed to separate husband and wife.

Blessed Jerome on being a eunuch for the sake of the kingdom:

Only the person who for Christ seeks chastity wholeheartedly and cuts off sexual impurity altogether (is the genuine eunuch)...Chastity in itself is agreeable and alluring; but one must look to one's strength so that 'he who is able to receive this may receive it.' It is as if the Lord with His words were urging on His soldiers to the reward of chastity with these words: He who is able to receive this let him receive it; he who is able to fight, let him fight and conquer.

RECEIVING LITTLE CHILDREN (19:13-15)

Blessed Theophylact on being like a little child:

Christ therefore shows that He especially accepts the guilelessness of a little child, saying, “Let the little children come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ He does not say, ‘of these,’ but ‘of such,’ that is, the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who have simplicity, guilelessness and innocence.

THE RICH YOUNG MAN (19:16-30)

St. John Chrysostom on the danger of greediness:

(Christ) was not criticizing money itself but the wills of those who are taken captive by it. If it will be difficult for the rich, how much more so for the avaricious...Christ demonstrates that there is a significant reward for the wealthy who can practice self-denial. He also said that this had to be the work of God, that He might who that great grace is needed for anyone who is going to achieve it.

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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