

MATTHEW 20

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD (20:1-16)

St. John Chrysostom on rejoicing over the blessings of others:

In the kingdom of heaven there is no one who justifies himself or blames others in this way; perish the thought! That place is pure and free from envy and jealousy. For if the saints when they are here give their lives for sinners, how much more do they rejoice when they see them there enjoying rewards and consider their blessings to be their own.

CHRIST PROPHESES HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION (20:17-19)

An early commentary on Matthew on thanking Christ for His death:

All the glory of God and all the salvation of humanity have been placed in Christ's death. For there is no thing which pertains more to humanity's salvation than Christ's death. Nor is there anything else for which we should thank God more than for His death.

LEADERS AND SERVANTS (20:20-28)

Blessed Theophylact on what is necessary to share in Christ's kingdom:

For this is what He is saying: since no one can share in My kingdom if he does not also share in My sufferings, tell Me if you are able to suffer such things as these. For the cup means martyrdom and one's own death, at the same time showing that it is an easy thing, like drinking a cup of wine, and that we too ought to embrace martyrdom as easily.

St. John Chrysostom on not demanding a preeminent position over others:

Loving the first place is not fitting to us, even though it may be among the nations. Such a passion becomes a tyrant. It continually hinders even great men. So it needs to be treated more severely.

CHRIST HEALS TWO BLIND MEN (20:29-34)

An early commentary on Matthew on this miracle demonstrating Christ's humanity and divinity:

Jesus touched their eyes. As truly human, He touched them with the hands of His flesh. As truly God He healed them by the word. He touched them because they called Him the Son of David. He healed them because they believed in His power. Thus in one and the same person, God and man, His work of healing both rewarded their faith and admonished their infidelity.

Find more study guides and other resources online at orthodoxyouth.org/matthew.

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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