

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: Good Enough?

Matthew 19:13–30 — Small Group Guide

Opening Question

When you were a child, what was something you completely depended on your parents or another adult to provide for you?

What made that dependence natural for you?

1. TO SUCH BELONGS THE KINGDOM

Matthew 19:13–15

Jesus' disciples tried to prevent people from bringing their children to Him, but Jesus rebuked them and said, **"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."**

Observation

1. Who brought the children to Jesus?
2. How did the disciples respond?
3. How did Jesus respond to the disciples?
4. What reason did Jesus give for allowing the children to come to Him?

Interpretation

5. What does Jesus mean when He says that the kingdom belongs "to such"?
6. What characteristics of children illustrate how we are to receive the kingdom?
7. Why is **dependence** so important to understanding Jesus' statement?
8. How is childlike faith different from childish faith?

Application

9. Where do you tend to rely on yourself rather than depend upon Jesus?
10. What would it look like for you to approach Jesus with greater humility, trust, and dependence?
11. How should this passage affect the way we view children and children's ministry?

Key Thought:

We don't enter the kingdom because we have become self-sufficient. We enter because we recognize that we are completely dependent upon Jesus.

2. WHAT MUST I DO?

Matthew 19:16–22

The rich young man approached Jesus with a seemingly sincere question: **"What good deed must I do to have eternal life?"**

He viewed eternal life in terms of something he could **do** or accomplish. Jesus eventually exposed the one thing he was unwilling to surrender—his wealth. The problem wasn't simply

that he was wealthy; his wealth had become a source of security and an obstacle to following Jesus.

Observation

12. What question did the young man ask Jesus?
13. How did Jesus respond?
14. What commandments did Jesus identify?
15. How did the young man respond to Jesus' answer?
16. What did Jesus ultimately tell him to do?
17. How did the young man respond?

Interpretation

18. What does the young man's question reveal about how he understood salvation?
19. Why do you think Jesus focused on the man's possessions?
20. Was Jesus teaching that being wealthy is itself sinful? Why or why not?
21. What does the man's response reveal about what he truly valued?
22. How does this encounter contrast with Jesus' statement about receiving the kingdom like a child?

Application

23. **What are you hanging on to for security?**
Wealth? Career? Family? Health? Reputation? Abilities? Control? Something else?
24. Is there anything you would find extremely difficult to surrender if Jesus asked you to?
25. Where might self-sufficiency be quietly competing with your dependence upon Christ?
26. What would it look like this week to surrender that area more fully to Jesus?

Key Thought:

The question isn't simply, "What am I willing to give Jesus?" The deeper question is, **"What am I unwilling to surrender to Jesus?"**

3. WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?

Matthew 19:23–26

After Jesus explained how difficult it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom, the disciples asked the question that gets to the heart of the passage:

"Who then can be saved?"

Jesus answered:

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Observation

27. What caused the disciples to ask, "Who then can be saved?"
28. What did Jesus say was impossible?
29. What did Jesus say was possible with God?

Interpretation

30. What does Jesus mean by "impossible"?
31. Why can't human effort, morality, wealth, family background, or religious activity save us?
32. How does this answer connect back to the children in verses 13–15?

33. What does this passage teach us about the nature of salvation?

Application

34. What are some ways people today try to make themselves "good enough" for God?

35. Have you ever been tempted to measure your standing with God by your performance?

36. What difference does it make to know that salvation is something **God does**, rather than something we accomplish?

37. How should God's grace affect the way we view ourselves and others?

Key Thought:

What we cannot do for ourselves, God does for us. Salvation is God's work, not our achievement.

4. WHAT ABOUT US?

Matthew 19:27–30

Peter responds by saying, **"See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"** Jesus assures His disciples that those who surrender to Him and follow Him will receive far more than they have given up, including eternal life.

Discussion

38. Why do you think Peter asked this question immediately after the encounter with the rich young man?

39. What had Peter and the other disciples given up to follow Jesus?

40. What does Jesus promise to those who sacrifice for His name?

41. How does verse 30—**"many who are first will be last, and the last first"**—fit with everything Jesus has taught in this passage?

Application

42. What might following Jesus cost you?

43. What makes surrender to Jesus difficult?

44. What encouragement do you find in Jesus' promise of eternal life?

45. How does knowing that Christ is worth more than anything we might surrender change your perspective on sacrifice?

The Big Question

Am I trusting Jesus like a child, or am I still trying to be "good enough" on my own?

Take a few moments to quietly consider:

- What am I depending upon?
- What am I trying to control?
- What am I unwilling to surrender?
- Am I trusting Jesus—or trusting myself?

This Week's Challenge

Identify one area of self-sufficiency in your life and deliberately surrender it to Jesus.

Then spend time each day thanking God that your salvation does not depend upon how "good enough" you can become, but upon what **God has done through Christ.**

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that You have made a way for us to enter Your kingdom—not because we are good enough, strong enough, religious enough, or capable enough, but because You are gracious.

Forgive us for the ways we try to depend upon ourselves. Forgive us for the things we hold onto for security instead of trusting You.

Give us the faith of a child—humble, trusting, dependent, and willing to receive from You. Show us the things we are unwilling to surrender. Give us courage to lay them at Your feet and follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Thank You that what is impossible for us is possible with You. Help us to trust Your grace, treasure Christ above everything else, and faithfully follow Him.

In Jesus' name, amen.