

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Theme: God's Kingdom My Priority
Title: THE REWARD FOR THE BELIEVERS

(Matthew 6:33)

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

(Matthew 19:27-30)

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” 28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

REVIEW

The rich young ruler – Matthew 19:16-23

- To seek first the Kingdom of God is to understand 3 facts:

(Matthew 19:21)

21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

- You belong to God – all that you are and have come from God – SELL
- God has full rights to all that is yours – GIVE
 - They are available to God for His purpose
- You are to obey God – FOLLOW
 - This makes you God’s steward

(1 Corinthians 4:1 & 2)

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

We learn this from the rich young ruler’s experience in Matthew 19:16-22.

- Eternal life is a gift from God

(Romans 6:23)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There is nothing you can do to inherit eternal life.

Jesus says, (John 10:27-30)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. 30 I and My Father are one.”

- God is your only Hope (Matthew 19:26)

(Acts 4:12)

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

(1 Timothy 1:1)

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,”

The dangers of wealth (Matthew 19:23-26)

- Wealth pulls you away from God’s Kingdom.
 - It creates an egoistic “I”
 - It causes you to stray from the faith

(1 Timothy 6:9-10)

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Wealth makes it difficult to obey God

(Matthew 13:22)

“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

- Wealth demands loyalty of heart

(Matthew 6:21)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Finally, there are rewards of the believer who has eternal life

THE REWARD OF THE BELIEVERS

(Matthew 19:27-30)

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” *Peter needing assurance*

28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. *Apostles’ reward*

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

Reward of the believer

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

Perfect Judgment – God's judgment is based on the motives of the heart

INTRODUCTION

- Peter was seeking assurance from Jesus (V. 27).
- He wanted to know if he was really saved (had eternal life) and would enter the Kingdom of God.

JESUS' ANSWER TO PETER'S QUESTION SEEKING ASSURANCE, DEMANDS FROM HIM AND US, TWO ESSENTIALS

- To forsake all
 - To belong to the Kingdom of God and to have eternal life means God is first in our lives
 - Our loyalty and purpose in life is to obey and do the will of God

(1 John 2:15-17)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- To follow Christ means
 - He is a new creature

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- He finds contentment in God
- He has no regrets

(Philippians 3:8)

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”

Jesus says, "...in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory" (V. 28)

- The word "re-generation" means restoration, renewal or rebirth - the restoration of all things

(Acts 3:21)

"whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

- It is called the day of redemption

(Ephesians 1:17)

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

TO FORSAKE ALL AND TO FOLLOW JESUS HAS REWARDS

Two categories of rewards:

- The rewards of the Apostles (Matthew 19:28)
 - They will sit on the throne of His Glory
 - They will sit upon 12 thrones
 - They will judge the 12 tribes of Israel

(Luke 22:28-30)

28 "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

- The Apostles are not the only ones rewarded but every true follower of Christ (V. 29)
 - The reason for the reward – he has left all; family, possession and self for His Name's sake. God is first.
 - The reward is hundredfold of what has been given up

CONCLUSION

(Matthew 19:30)

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

- On the Day of Judgment, perfect judgment will be meted out.
- Only God knows motives and sees the heart.
- There will be shocks and surprises

(2 Corinthians 5:10)

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"

(1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

“each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

(Luke 6:25)

“Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now,
For you shall mourn and weep.

- Example: The rich man and Lazarus
(Luke 16:25)
But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.’
- Rewards according to God’s standards
 - Example: The parable of the labourers (Matthew 20:1-16)
 - Serve out of love and not rewards.