

RED LETTER LIVING

Sermon #7

The Principle of Paradox Living

Matthew 19:13-30

July 23, 2017

Discuss Sermon

“I would rather fail in the cause that someday will triumph
than triumph in a cause that someday will fail.”

– Woodrow Wilson

The Bible is full of different lessons and principles that seem to be a paradox to the average person living in our culture. One example is discovered in Matthew 19:13-30 as we observe Jesus introduce “The Principle of Paradox Living.” There are three foundational principles that are taught by Jesus as to how we can live a life of success in the eyes of the Lord.

The world defines success much differently than the Lord. Some define success as a rise to power others define it as amassing great wealth but the Lord defines it as a life that glorifies Him with three foundational elements: (1) Humility, (2) Sacrifice, and (3) Surrender. Jesus sums up this type of a life with one simple paradoxical statement:

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

- Why does this teaching of Jesus seem to be a paradoxical principle today?
- What does it mean for the first to be last and the last to be first?

Exchange Views

Dr. J. B. Hawthorne was a noted orator sought by scores of churches and tens of thousands of hearers. Once he went to help a southern church in a two-week evangelistic campaign. The end of the meetings found only a little, unpromising lad saved. Dr. Hawthorne was a bit chagrined. But that boy became the noted A. T. Robertson, the greatest American Greek scholar of the 20th century.

Jesus Christ helps us understand that the life of success is discovered when we learn to focus more on Him and less on ourselves. D.L. Moody often observed that you could tell the state of a man's spiritual maturity by how much he talked about himself versus how much he talked about the Lord our God.

- What does it mean to find victory in surrender versus self-sufficiency?
- What does this principle mean: "Your Sacrifice is Not Unseen: God rewards your Resolve"?

Examine Text – Matthew 19:13-30

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What stands out to you about the principles presented by the Lord?

Personalize Truth

Chuck Swindoll observes: "YOU DON'T RUN through an art gallery; you walk very slowly. You often stop, study the treasured works of art, taking the time to appreciate what has been painted. You examine the texture, the technique, the choice and mixture of colors, the subtle as well as the bold strokes of the brush, the shadings. And the more valuable the canvas, the more time and thought it deserves. You may even return to it later for a further and deeper look, especially if you are a student of that particular artist. In the gallery of His priceless work, the Lord God has included a portrait of vast value. It is the portrait of a servant carefully painted in words that take time to understand and appreciate. The frame in which the portrait has been placed is the example and teachings of Jesus Christ."

- Identify three ways you can follow in the footsteps of Christ as a servant of the Lord.
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How to Use This Study Guide: This guide can be used by individuals, families, & small groups to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word. Each section is organized in these areas: **D.E.E.P.** = Discuss Sermon, Exchange Views, Examine Text, and Personalize Truth.

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