

**Soften Your Heart**

**Matthew 19:1-15**

# **Christ Encountered The Same Trials We Face**

**Hebrews 4:15**

**For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

# **We Need To Respond Positively To Christ**

## **Hebrews 4:7**

**Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

# **I. Christ Continues His Mission (19:1-2)**

## **Matthew 19:1-2**

**1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;**

**2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.**

**A. Christ follows words with action**

**B. Christ follows Father's will**

**C. Christ followers are healed**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **A. The Hardness Of The Pharisees (19:3-9)**

#### **1. Starts from a poor attitude**

**Matthew 19:3**

**The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**

## Malachi 2:13-17

**13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.**

**14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.**

## Malachi 2:13-17 continued

**15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.**

**16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.**

**17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **A. The Hardness Of The Pharisees (19:3-9) - continued**

#### **2. Continues from a lack of understanding (vv 4-5)**

**Matthew 19:4-5**

**4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,**

**5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **A. The Hardness Of The Pharisees (19:3-9) - continued**

#### **3. Concludes with a lack of respect (vv 6-9)**

##### **a. Disregarding God's will (v 6)**

**Matthew 19:6**

**Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **A. The Hardness Of The Pharisees (19:3-9) - continued**

#### **3. Concludes with a lack of respect (v 7-9)**

##### **b. Disregarding God's Law (vv 7-9)**

### **Matthew 19:7-9**

**7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?**

**8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.**

**9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **B. The Confusion of The Disciples (19:10-12)**

#### **1. Their question (v 10)**

**Matthew 19:10**

**His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.**

## **II. Christ Challenged On The Way (19:3-12)**

### **B. The Confusion of The Disciples (19:10-12)**

#### **2. Their reality (vv 11-12)**

#### **Matthew 19:10-12**

**11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.**

**12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.**

# **But What About...?**

## **1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

**10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:**

**11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.**

# **But What About...?**

**1 Corinthians 7:10-16 - continued**

**12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.**

**13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.**

# **But What About...?**

## **1 Corinthians 7:10-16 - continued**

**14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.**

**15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.**

**16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?**

# **III. Christ Commands Concerning Children**

**(19:13-15)**

**Matthew 19:13-15**

**13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.**

**14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**

**15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.**

**A. It is never too early to hear God's Word (v 13)**

**B. Children are safe in the kingdom of heaven until they can make a decision (v 14)**

**C. Children have a special place in God's heart (v 15)**

