

Time Audit Chronicles: Marriage, Riches, and the Kingdom of Heaven – Living by Eternal

Values

(Matthew 19)

Prologue: Eternal Questions

The Presswood family sat together in the backyard on a warm evening, watching the sun dip below the horizon. Ariel was curled up with a book about famous philanthropists, while Alice played with her dollhouse, pretending her stuffed animals were getting married in a grand ceremony.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked suddenly, “what does God think about marriage? I mean, it’s such a big deal for people. Is it the same for Him?”

“And what about treasure?” Alice chimed in, holding up a tiny toy chest. “Does God like gold and jewels?”

Ryan leaned back in his chair, smiling. “Jesus talked about both marriage and treasure—and He showed that what matters most to God isn’t wealth or status, but how we live for His kingdom. Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to see what Jesus taught about marriage, riches, and the kingdom of heaven.”

The Journey Begins: Questions of the Heart

The Time Audit Machine hummed softly as Ariel programmed the destination.

“Coordinates locked: Judea, 27-29 CE. Objective: hear Jesus teach about marriage, wealth, and the values of God’s kingdom.”

With a flash of light, the family found themselves in a bustling village where Jesus was surrounded by a crowd. Pharisees, their robes immaculate, stood at the front, ready with questions to test Him.

“There’s Jesus,” Ryan said, pointing. “This is where He answers some of life’s biggest questions.”

Marriage: God’s Design (Matthew 19:3-12)

The Pharisees approached Jesus, their voices loud and challenging:

“Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” (Matthew 19:3)

Ariel frowned. “What does ‘put away’ mean?”

“It means divorce,” Ryan explained. “They were trying to trap Jesus into saying something controversial.”

Jesus' voice was calm but firm as He replied:

“Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 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? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Matthew 19:4-6)

Alice tilted her head. “So, when people get married, they’re like one person?”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Jesus was pointing back to God’s original design for marriage—a lifelong commitment where two people become one.”

The Pharisees pressed further, asking why Moses allowed divorce. Jesus explained that it was a concession due to the hardness of human hearts, but it wasn’t God’s original plan.

Ariel jotted in her notebook. “So, Jesus was saying marriage is sacred because God designed it that way?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “It’s a reflection of His love and faithfulness.”

The Value of Singleness

Jesus then spoke about singleness, saying:

“All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given... He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” (Matthew 19:11-12)

Ariel looked up. “So, He wasn’t saying everyone has to get married?”

“Right,” Ryan said. “Jesus valued both marriage and singleness as ways to honor God. It’s about living faithfully in the role God calls you to.”

The Little Children *(Matthew 19:13-15)*

The scene shifted as parents brought their children to Jesus for a blessing. The disciples, thinking they were helping, tried to send the children away.

“Why did they do that?” Alice asked, frowning.

“They probably thought Jesus was too busy for kids,” Ryan said. “But they were about to get a big lesson.”

Jesus' voice was warm and inviting as He said:

“Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14)

He placed His hands on the children, blessing them with love and care.

Alice beamed. “I think Jesus loves kids best!”

“He loves everyone,” Ryan said, “but He showed that a childlike heart is the key to the kingdom—trusting and open to God.”

The Rich Young Ruler *(Matthew 19:16-26)*

As Jesus walked, a young man approached Him, his clothes fine and his expression eager.

“Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” he asked. (Matthew 19:16)

Jesus replied, “Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Matthew 19:17)

The man nodded confidently. “All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?” (Matthew 19:20)

Jesus’ gaze softened as He said:

“If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.” (Matthew 19:21)

Alice gasped. “Did he do it?”

The young man’s face fell, and he walked away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

“Why didn’t he follow Jesus?” Ariel asked.

“He loved his wealth more than he loved God,” Ryan said. “Jesus wasn’t saying money is bad, but that nothing should come before following Him.”

Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24)

The disciples were astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus replied, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

The Promise of Rewards *(Matthew 19:27-30)*

Peter spoke up, “Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?” (Matthew 19:27)

Jesus reassured them:

“Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.” (Matthew 19:29-30)

“So, following Jesus is worth more than anything else,” Ariel said.

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “The rewards of God’s kingdom are far greater than anything the world can offer.”

Returning Home: Eternal Values

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the family reflective. Ariel flipped through her notes, while Alice arranged her dollhouse so that one tiny room was labeled “Heaven’s Treasure.”

“Jesus’ teachings were so clear,” Ariel said. “He showed that marriage, wealth, and everything else only matter when we live for God.”

“And we don’t need lots of gold or jewels,” Alice added, “because God’s kingdom is the best treasure.”

Ryan smiled. “Jesus was inviting us to live with eternal values, putting Him above everything else and trusting that His kingdom is worth it all.”

Reflection: Living for the Kingdom

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 19:

“‘But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.’”

The family sat quietly, reflecting on Jesus’ words.

“Jesus showed us what really matters,” Ryan said. “Faithfulness in marriage, a heart free from greed, and a childlike trust in God—that’s the way to live for His kingdom.”

“And when we do,” Ariel added, “we find treasures that last forever.”

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “I think Heaven’s treasure chest is the best one ever!”

“And it’s open to everyone who follows Jesus,” Ryan said with a grin.

Takeaway: Eternal Priorities

In Matthew 19, Jesus teaches profound lessons about marriage, riches, and the kingdom of heaven. Marriage reflects God’s design, wealth must not take the place of God in our hearts, and childlike humility opens the door to His kingdom. These teachings invite us to live with eternal priorities, trusting that the rewards of following Jesus far outweigh anything the world can offer.