

Sermon Outline

“The Law and Sin”

Matthew 19:16-26

I. Structure of the pericope

A The young man comes to Jesus v. 16

B Jesus responds, pointing to the commandments v. 17

C The young man requests specificity v. 18a

D Jesus cites the Second Table vv. 18b-19

C¹ The young man affirms the commandments v. 20

B¹ Jesus demands complete obedience v. 21

A¹ The young man leaves, sorrowful v. 22

The story is followed by the disciples’ reaction regarding the difficulties confronting the wealthy and Jesus response to them.

II. Contrast between the children and the young man vv. 13-15; 16, 25

A. The disciples are still hung up on “status”

See Mt 18:1-5; 23:11-12

True disciples are characterized by humility

Mt 23:11-12; Ps 84:10

B. Jesus response to each

1. Lays hands and blesses the children v. 15

2. Urges the rich man to come and follow him v. 21

III. The dialogue

A. “What good thing must I do?”

(“How is righteousness to be understood?”)

B. Jesus’ two-part reply

1. God is the One Good.

2. Keep the commandments – they emanate from the One.

C. The man’s omission prevents discipleship – he is covetous

1. Jesus omits the 10th Commandment

2. Lev 19:18 enforces the absent commandment

3. Jesus commands at the point of resistance (5 imperatives)

IV. The conclusion

A. Jesus’ statement of the problem

B. The disciples’ astonishment

C. Jesus’ summary statement – neither status nor human effort are determinative in Christ’s kingdom.