KINGDOM of HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Community Group Material – *from Dave Gertzen*

Matthew 22:23-40

Week of Sunday 28th July 2024

Marriage at the resurrection and the greatest commandment

Leader Preparation

This passage has two main parts. The first is the question about marriage after the resurrection and the second is one of the most well-known passages by Jesus "What is the greatest commandment in the law and the second greatest commandment?"

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind ……
- Love your neighbour as yourself.

Due to the familiarity with the second the Community Group material will focus on application.

The questions on the first will dwell on our relationship with Christ. For those of us that are married "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven." V29. This may be of great joy and/or sadness. Joy for those in difficult marriages, people who are single, have never been able to be married but wished to, sadness for those in happy marriages and widowed - but it focuses our thoughts on the relationship between Christ and each of us!.

Group Time:

Ask people about their most embarrassing moment on a date?

What are any highs/lows from the week?

If anyone is single ask them how they feel they are treated by married couples/ families and how couples could be more aware of singleness? If the group consists of couples only ask them about how they treat single friends? And what they could do to be more like the family of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Exploring the Passage

READ Matthew 22: 23-33 first and then 34-40

Content: Marriage at the resurrection

Describe how you feel about the story of the woman being passed on like a piece of property between the 7 brothers in the story? What cultural connotations are there?

Read v29-32 again. Ask people what the implications are of no marriage at the resurrection? What would this mean for them particularly? Be practical about specifics in their lives to make it applicable.

Delving deeper

Based on the last question is there something that they should be doing now to prepare themselves for after the resurrection. As a person what should their views be?

Sam Allberry writes" Our marriages are therefore temporal and momentary. They are not eternal. The state in which we will spend countless billions of years in ultimate bliss will not be as people married to each other. Outside of our relationship with Christ, we will be single. We can presume that other forms of human connection will be present in the new creation. I take it that friendships … will continue into eternity." Sam Allberry's " 7 Myths about singleness p 119"

Content: The Greatest commandment

Here Jesus succinctly synthesizes the ethical teaching of scripture!

Look up Deut 6:5 and Lev 19.18 Jesus adds them together!

There is a vertical aspect of the greatest commandment and a horizontal aspect

Delving deeper

Ask your group to think of one aspect they can work on in their vertical relationship of loving God. with all their heart, soul, mind?

Is there one aspect in each of those three that they need to bring under the Lordship of Jesus?

Ask people to share, if they feel comfortable. It may be appropriate to do the sharing in 2s or 3s.

Likewise ask your group to think of one aspect they can work on in their horizontal relationship of loving their neighbour as themselves?

Is there one aspect with people that they need to bring under the Lordship of Jesus?

Ask people to share, if they feel comfortable. It may be appropriate to so the sharing in 2s or 3s.

Closing off

Spend time in prayer for items related to the above. Specific actions that people may have shared that require the Holy Spirit to change and any specific practical items that people should carry out.