



**Senior Bible Study Ministry**

***Gospel of Matthew***

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



Rewards IN Heaven

## *Matthew 19 (NIV)*

*27 Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” 28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*

## Main Point

As believers, we live in hope, trusting that the rewards of following Jesus will far outweigh any sacrifice.



## Eternal Rewards

- Peter asks, "What about us?" after leaving everything to follow Jesus
- Following Jesus requires sacrifice, often leaving behind possessions, family, or status
- Jesus promises a reward for those who have sacrificed for His name's sake
- In the future kingdom, the faithful will have positions of authority & responsibility

## Eternal Rewards

- Jesus is the one who assigns authority & rewards to His followers
- Sacrifices for the kingdom will not go unnoticed by Him
- Followers of Jesus experience blessings both now & in the eternal life to come
- God sees the hearts of His followers & their willingness to forsake all

## Eternal Rewards

- Rewards include spiritual family—brothers, sisters & children in Christ
- Jesus promises eternal life as the ultimate reward

*For God so loved the world...that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)*

- Temporal losses will be more than compensated in the kingdom of heaven



## Eternal Rewards

- The believer's commitment to Jesus brings a hundredfold blessing
- The reward system in God's kingdom far surpasses any earthly gain

*You will receive a hundredfold now in this time, with persecutions. (Mark 10:29-30 NIV)*



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## The First Will Be Last

- God's reward system is different from the world's
- Earthly success doesn't guarantee eternal reward
- God's rewards are based on faithfulness
- Worldly values are often upside down in God's kingdom—the humble & sacrificial are honored
- Greatness in God's kingdom is measured by humility & service, not earthly status

## The First Will Be Last

- God honors faithfulness over fame or wealth
- The greatest joy comes from a life fully devoted to Jesus, regardless of worldly sacrifices
- Those who are humble & serve may be exalted by God

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10 NIV)*

## The First Will Be Last

- Serving others in Jesus' name is key to receiving rewards in God's kingdom
- Worldly success does not guarantee high status in God's kingdom
- Believers are encouraged to live with an eternal perspective, knowing their labor for Christ will be rewarded
- Jesus' promise of reward is meant to encourage believers during difficult times of sacrifice

## The First Will Be Last

- Believers should focus on pleasing God, not seeking worldly recognition
- Our value in God's eyes is determined by faithfulness, not achievements
- The final judgment will reveal the true spiritual standing of each person by Jesus

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)*

## The First Will Be Last

- God's rewards are certain because they are based on His faithful character
- As followers of Jesus, we should reflect on what we have sacrificed for Christ & trust in His promise to repay us

*Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord. (Matthew 25:21 NIV)*

## Practical Applications

- As senior believers we can live with purpose by seeking ways to serve others, whether through prayer, offering wisdom, or encouragement
- We can share with others how God has been faithful through our life's journey, offering encouragement to others who feel the weight of loss
- We can practice gratitude daily for the blessings we've experienced, knowing our best days are yet to come in eternity



## Practical Applications

- We can actively engage in relationships with fellow believers, seeing them as brothers & sisters in Christ, fostering community & mutual support
- Even small acts of kindness, such as writing notes of encouragement, praying for others, or offering a listening ear, can have a profound impact on the community
- We can find peace in God's promise of eternal life & share this hope with others who are struggling with grief or loneliness

## Practical Applications

- We can commit to praying for family, friends & community, knowing that prayer is a powerful & essential ministry

## Discussion Questions


- What does it mean for us to sacrifice for Christ today?
- How does the promise of eternal life impact the way you live your daily life?
- How do you understand the statement, "The first will be last, and the last will be first"?
- In what ways have you seen God's grace in your life, despite what you think you deserve?

## Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to avoid comparing your spiritual journey to that of others?
- How does Jesus' promise of reward encourage you in your walk with Him?



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