

## Message #68

## Matthew 19:27-30

**ANY BELIEVER IN ANY DISPENSATION, WHO SACRIFICES FOR JESUS CHRIST, WILL BE ABUNDANTLY REWARDED ONE DAY BY JESUS CHRIST.**

Now the context is critical to this passage. Jesus had just finished telling His disciples that the only way one could be saved was by the power of God, not by human works. We may recall that the good man came to Jesus wondering what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him there is nothing you can do, but salvation is only possible with God. In other words, the only way to be saved is to rely on God to save you. This is the context that generates a response from Christ's disciples.

**RESPONSE #1** – The response of Peter to Jesus. **19:27**

Peter is thinking about all of this and is doing a little mental calculation. If salvation is only possible by the power of God, then what is the value of what we have given up? Peter is a man of emotion, honesty and integrity. Peter responds to Jesus and says we have left everything and followed you, so what is in it for us? Why have we done this if salvation is only possible by relying on the power of God? The Greek text indicates that these disciples had in fact forsaken the character and quality of all things to follow Jesus Christ. The aorist tense of the verb “follow” indicates these disciples made a point in time decision to follow Jesus Christ and now three years later they are wondering about the value of that decision. We will never lose by deciding we are going to follow Jesus Christ. We will always win by making this decision.

**RESPONSE #2** – The response of Jesus to the disciples. **19:28-30**

**Observation #1** - Jesus qualifies what He is about to say with the adverb “truly.” **19:28a**

This adverb is used when making a solemn statement. In fact, G. Abbott-Smith says that this word is used in the Gospels “exclusively, introducing solemn statements of our Lord” (p. 25). The actual word means this is a firm, true statement. This matter of rewards is a very real and true reality.

**Observation #2** - Jesus qualifies following Him with the prepositional phrase “in the regeneration.” **19:28b**

Now the term “regeneration” is only used twice in the N.T. – Matt. 19:28 and Titus 3:5. It is the Greek word *παλιγγενεσία*, which means to renew something or restore something by giving it a new birth (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 335). Here in this context the new birth refers to the fact that the disciples had followed Jesus Christ believing that He was the one who would bring in the millennial kingdom. He would give new life to Israel in the millennial kingdom. In the case of Titus 3:5, in the dispensation of the Church Age, the word refers to the impartation of eternal life that comes the moment one believes on Jesus Christ, which specific work is performed by the Holy Spirit. The significance of this prepositional phrase is this—it is not following Christ our own way that earns rewards—it is following His way that earns them.

One cannot even be on a path of reward until they have been regenerated by personal faith in Jesus Christ.

**Observation #3** - Jesus qualifies the time when the disciples will be rewarded. **19:28c**

It takes place when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne. In other words, the disciples would experience the fullness of their rewards for following Christ when Christ comes to reign as King. This is when and where the outworking of rewards will take place.

**Observation #4** - Jesus qualifies the responsibility of the 12 disciples. **19:28d**

They will be involved in judging the nation Israel—all twelve tribes. This naturally means there were to be 12 disciples and Jesus knew that Judas would not be one of the 12. What this means is that Jesus knew Matthias would be selected (Acts 1:15-26), because Paul would be the apostle to the Gentiles. Dr. C. I. Scofield says this will be a fulfillment of Isaiah 1:26. Clearly from this one part of the verse we see that Israel will be restored one day and, when Jesus Christ reigns over Israel, the disciples will reign with Him and judge the 12 tribes.

**Observation #5** - Jesus lists some things that disciples give up in order to follow Him. **19:29a**

Now the pronoun “everyone” covers everyone. The word “left” is a Greek word that means sometimes a commitment to Jesus Christ will mean there may come a point in time (aorist tense) when one must leave or forsake some very dear things for the name of Jesus Christ. This is critical. It is not just leaving these things that merit anything; it is when one must leave these things because it is truly the will of God in following Jesus Christ.

1. Some will leave houses for the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Some will leave brothers or sisters for the name of Jesus Christ.
3. Some will leave their father for the name of Jesus Christ.
4. Some will leave their mother for the name of Jesus Christ.
5. Some will leave their children for the name of Jesus Christ.
6. Some will leave their farms for the name of Jesus Christ.

**Observation #6** - Jesus promises those who leave things for Him will be abundantly rewarded. **19:29b**

One who is willing to obey the Word of God and make sacrifices because it is the will of God will discover they will reap far more than they sowed. They will be used in ways they never dreamed. They will see God do things they never saw. They will understand God’s Word at levels they never grasped. They will influence more people than they ever thought they could. They will experience one blessing after another. Then they will be honored in eternity and have a great inheritance in eternal life. The disciple’s commitment to Jesus Christ would pay rich dividends.

**Observation #7** - Jesus warns that rewards will not be determined by numbers, but by motives and quality. **19:30**

There will be many in eternity who will be shocked that ends up being highly rewarded. It may not be the big time preachers, who spoke to big crowds that boasted of churches with big budgets. It will be those who were faithful. Those who gave a cup of water for the name of Christ will be remembered and honored. Those who did behind scenes things for the name of Christ, who made many sacrifices no one even knew, these are the people who will be honored. You see, in eternity many who were first will be last and many who were last will be first.