

## MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

### Biblical Basis | Adoption

**Overview:** Our biggest moments of spiritual growth do not come when we are comfortable. They are often formed in pain, in challenge, or in discomfort. Jesus was often pushing the people of his time to change their thinking, to move beyond following the rules and checklists, and to go on a journey with him that never promised comfort. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us, to bring us peace beyond understanding, and that he will take on our burdens. We will discuss how to listen to the promptings of God to push us beyond our comfort into a fuller life with Him.

**Focus Verse:** “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” | Matthew 19:26 NIV

**Video:** Bible Study Tools: <https://youtu.be/uMIUJ3L9rdk>

**Segment Questions:** (References are on back)

#### *Read – James 1*

- Do you have a personal connection to adoption?
- Why does James describe looking after widows and orphans as “pure and faultless” religion? What type of religion is flawed?
- Adoption is used in other sections of the Bible to describe our relationship with God – we are adopted into His family and made heirs to share with Him. Why is this analogy used?

#### *Read – Rich Young Ruler*

- How does the rich young ruler define religion? Why is Jesus challenging him to give up his possessions?
- Jesus uses an impossible analogy to describe entering His kingdom. Why would entering His kingdom be an impossibility?

#### **Action Questions:**

- How is God asking you to stretch? How might He be challenging you to redefine your religious experience?
- Do you have an “impossible” task that you have been avoiding?

#### **Closing Personal Prayer:**

Lord, you have asked us to take on the impossible, the unique challenges that we each will come up against as a chance to grow and to stretch. Help us to join this journey with you and know that you are always walking alongside of us – and that through this time, we will experience the fullness of your joy and peace.

## Introduction

Jesus lived to challenge the religious and His followers during His time on earth. He challenged the status quo, the way things were “always done”, and how the Scriptures were taught and applied. He pushed people beyond what made them comfortable and showed repeatedly that growth comes in challenge – in facing the humanly impossible tasks ahead of us. It comes when we give ourselves to others without expectations but to serve and honor those around us.

---

**James 1:27** | “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

**Matthew 19:16-26** | “16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

18 “Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus replied, ““You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.””

20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”