

8 Jesus answered them, "Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because you're heartless. It was never this way in the beginning. **9** I can guarantee that whoever divorces his wife for any reason other than her unfaithfulness is committing adultery if he marries another woman."

10 The disciples said to him, "If that is the only reason a man can use to divorce his wife, it's better not to get married."

11 He answered them, "Not everyone can do what you suggest. Only those who have that gift can. **12** For example, some men are celibate because they were born that way. Others are celibate because they were castrated. Still others have decided to be celibate because of the kingdom of heaven. If anyone can do what you've suggested, then he should do it."

Jesus Blesses Children

13 Then some people brought little children to Jesus to have him bless them and pray for them. But the disciples told the people not to do that.

14 Jesus said, "Don't stop children from coming to me! Children like these are part of God's kingdom." **15** After Jesus blessed them, he went away from there.

Eternal Life in the Kingdom

16 Then a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good deed should I do to gain eternal life?"

17 Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you want to enter into life, obey the commandments."

18 "Which commandments?" the man asked.

Jesus said, "Never murder. Never commit adultery. Never steal. Never give false testimony.

19 Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

20 The young man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments. What else do I need to do?"

21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, sell what you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then follow me!"

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad because he owned a lot of property.

23 Jesus said to his disciples, "I can guarantee this truth: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** I can guarantee again that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."