

# Eunuchs For The Sake Of The Kingdom Of God – Matthew 19:12

What did Jesus Christ mean by this statement?

**These words are no more to be taken literally than Jesus Christ's words about cutting of a hand or plucking out an eye.**

**In Jewish culture in which Jesus Christ lived and taught, marriage was the accepted norm.**

Celibacy was **not** held in high esteem until much later in only parts of the Church.

**The men such as John the Baptist and Jesus Christ Himself should deny themselves the comforts of marriage and family life may well have aroused comment.**

**Matthew 19:11** [New King James] *“But He said to them, ‘All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given.’”*

Jesus Christ had already mentioned, that celibacy after divorce on grounds of sexual immorality was **not** the best decision [verse 10] but **not** every person can endure celibacy, [verse 11].

**Jesus Christ then gives examples of celibacy –**

**Matthew 19:12** [New King James] *“For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.”*

Some are born eunuchs, some slaves were made eunuchs by their masters if serving in their harem, others choose to be eunuchs, like John the Baptist and Jesus Christ Himself. The task they had been given by God made marriage and family life unfair for a wife or children.

**A man who marries and brings up a family incurs special responsibilities for his wife and children that have claim on a major part of his attention.**

**Mark 3:34-35** [New King James] *“And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.’”*

Jesus Christ indicated His attitude towards the ties of the family into which He was born, up to the age of 30 Jesus Christ fulfilled the needs of His physical family after the death of His physical father, then His family was those who were doing the will of God alongside Him.

**To continue to incur the restricted obligations which marriage and the rearing of children involved would have limited His dedication to the ministry to which Jesus Christ knew He was called.**

At the same time Jesus Christ made it plain that only a minority among His followers could receive the “*gift*” of celibacy for the fulfilling of their part in spreading the message He had brought from God the Father.

For most of His followers marriage and family life should be the norm.

Some years later Paul repeated the same teaching in a different language.

**Although Paul himself found the celibate way of life essential because of his travel and the dangers in which he was involved, preaching the good news to a Gentile world, it was not for the majority.**

Paul knew what the consequences would be if those who were **not called and empowered** to live a celibate life tried to live one.

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2** [New King James] *“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” ... “Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.”*

Those whom God called to the celibate life would receive from God the “*gift*” of celibacy – making themselves eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of God.