

PARADOX #2 – “The First Shall Be Last ...

The Last

Shall Be First”

INTRODUCTION: PARADOX – “A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true”.

God’s PRIORITIES aren’t always our PRIORITIES ... **“J.O.Y.”** ...

Jesus, Others, You ... Matthew 6:33, Philippians 2:3

EXAMPLES of this PARADOX ...

1 The Rich Man And Lazarus – Luke 16:19-21, 25

2 The Poor Widow – Mark 12:43

Like us, the Disciples had a hard time with this PRINCIPLE.

1 **Matthew 18:1-2** – They expected the boy to be like THEM!
18:3-4

- Jesus told them to be “*child-like*”, not “*childish*”.

- They never got the lesson ... **19:13-15**

1 **Matthew 19:16** – His PRIORITIES are all wrong ... **19:21-22**

- To come in “*FIRST*”, put God “*FIRST*”.

- **19:23-24** – Earthly accomplishments won’t bring salvation.

2 **Matthew 19:27** – They still didn’t get it!

- **19:28-29** ... to be “*FIRST*”, put yourself “*LAST*” ... **19:30**

- It’s not how much you do, but your faithfulness in doing it ... by letting God do it through you ... QUALITY, not QUANTITY.

3 **Matthew 20:13-15** – It’s QUALITY, not QUANTITY.

- **20:16** – It’s not how long you’ve been saved, but have you done what God has “*called and chosen*” for you to do?

4 **Matthew 20:20-21** – They still didn’t get it!

- **20:25-28** – To be a RULER in Heaven, be a SERVANT here.

CONCLUSION:

- In Heaven, Earthly roles may be reversed.

- It’s not “*All about ME!*” ... it’s “*All about HIM!*”

- Put God “*FIRST*” in your life.