

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "Teaching on Divorce"  
Matthew 19:1-12

June 18, 2019

"He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. (Matthew 19:8)

**I. Judgement on Marriage and Divorce**

- a. The Pharisees came to test Jesus on a "hot-button" topic, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" Judaism had a high view of marriage, but they recognized the fact of divorce. (Deu 24:1)
- b. With all the other life issues to address, why did Jesus specifically teach about divorce?
- c. Jesus set forth God's purpose in marriage. He is teaching on what God *wants in* marriage, and how it benefits the kingdom.
- d. By saying, "Haven't you read?", Jesus is bringing attention to Creation before the fall of man.
  1. God established marriage to be permanent and only He could divide it according to His holy plan.
  2. Marriage makes possible the continuation of the human race, "be fruitful and multiply".
  3. Marriage was to be exclusive. Sex outside of marriage became a destructive force.
  4. Marriage was to be a platform for all others in the family to understand Godly relationships.
  5. Marriage is not for everyone. (vv.10-12) (Eunuchs had responsibilities)
- e. God views marriage as a gift, and that gift is not for everyone.
- f. Each man and woman must consider God's will regarding marriage.
- g. Because marriage is serious business to God, Jesus wants people to think carefully before, "I do."
- h. What about spousal abuse? What about addiction in the marriage? (1 Cor 7:15)

**II. Living Oneness**

- a. The union of "one flesh," takes precedence over the close relationship of a child and parents.
- b. The term "one flesh" refers to "gluing." If something is torn apart that was glued together, each part will be impacted by the separation.
- c. The Apostle Paul used *marriage* to illustrate the intimate relationship between Christ (Groom) and the church (Bride of Christ). (Eph 5:22-23)
- d. Christ's relationship with His church is the example for all husbands to follow.
  1. Christ loves His church; He nourishes and cleanses it with His Word; and cares for it.
- e. Christ seeks to join us to Himself as one. (Meditate on John 17:15-23)
- f. Sexual sin: fornication covers many kinds of sin; *adultery* involves only married people.
- g. Adultery permitted the innocent person the freedom to remarry.
- h. A sanctified sex life begins with inner desires. There is nothing wrong with gazing on the beauty of another, but *think long, think wrong*.
- i. God's original law of marriage left no room for divorce, but that law was laid down before man had sinned.

**III. Apply the Scriptures**

- a. It is never easy to live as *one*, but God said it is possible. Living as one requires each side to give of themselves intentionally, lovingly, and authentically.
- b. God expects marriage between, a man and a woman, to be a witness to the world.
- c. In a fallen world, marriage is not easy, and it is never perfect. Two imperfect creatures do not equal perfection.
- d. Think of the testimony of two imperfect creatures joining together to bring God glory.
- e. Two become one with help from the One.