

MARRIAGE MATTERS

FAMILY MATTERS PART 1

MATTHEW 19:3-12

1. SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

- A. This may be hard to hear—even the disciples struggled with Jesus’s word (Matt. 19:10)
- B. Singleness is Not SIN-gleness (Matt. 19:12; 1 Cor. 7:8-9)

2. THE BIG QUESTION OF THE PASSAGE: IS DIVORCE ALLOWED FOR ANY REASON OR ONLY CERTAIN REASONS? (19:3)

- A. Two schools of thought in Jewish culture in Jesus’s day”
 - i. School of Hillel: Divorce for any reason (ex: wife burns dinner)
 - ii. School of Shimmei: Divorce only for sexual immorality
- B. Divorce was NOT part of God’s original design for marriage (19:4) “It was not so from the beginning.”
- C. Divorce was permitted because of hardness of heart. (19:8)
- D. According to Jesus: *Cardio sclerosis*—hardening of the heart—is the leading cause of divorce, not “falling out of love.” People move toward divorce because they stop repenting and forgiving.

3. “FROM THE BEGINNING” (19:8)

- A. To answer the question of divorce, Jesus takes them back to the Origin of Marriage in Genesis 2.
- B. Big Reality: God Invented Marriage (19:4-5; Gen. 2:24)
 - i. Humans were created for relationships (Gen. 2:18)
 - ii. KEY TRUTH: The most important human-to-human relationship is husband and wife. (Matt. 19:5; Gen 2:24) “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

- C. Since God created marriage, we will know the greatest joy and satisfaction in marriage if we do marriage God's way.
- D. To be clear: God's design for marriage is 1XY + 1XX (4LIFE). One man and one woman for life.
- E. The first temptation is "Did God really say?" (Gen. 3:1) The world question whether there are only two genders or if marriage is for only one man and woman. God is not confused. (1 Cor. 14:33)

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

- A. In the creation of Eve, God separates the Man into two people (Woman is not a separate, independent creation. (Gen. 2:20-21)
- B. In marriage God reunites the two back into one. (Gen. 2:22-24)
- C. There is an unseen spiritual union in marriage which *cannot* be ignored.
- D. The point of the union is to portray the relationship between Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:28-32)

5. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MARRIAGE VOWS

- A. God's joining is permanent. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:6)
- B. The "two become one" transpires at the moment of first sexual joining. (1 Cor. 6:15-18)
- C. The Two-Become-One cannot be undone by a legal document (i.e., a divorce decree) (Matt. 19:9; 5:31-32) "And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

6. KEY QUESTIONS:

- A. God is the inventor of marriage; He knows how to make it work. Are we doing marriage God's way or repeating what we have seen modeled for us?
- B. Our marriage is intended to show the world the love relationship of Christ and the Church. What is our world seeing?
- C. God intends marriage to be "till death do us part" and pure. Am I leaving a door open for intruders or escape? Do we have a nagging belief that we are doomed to fail or destined to thrive?