

PORTRAIT OF THE KING

“Jesus’ Teaching on Divorce” (Matthew 19:1-12)

INTRODUCTION

- We should not rush to the courts when we have marital difficulties (I Corinthians 6:1).
- *KEY POINT: God’s desired _____ is that the married remain married, but He _____ divorce because of our own sin.*
- Marriage reflects Christ’s love for the church (Ephesians 5:25).

EXPOSITION

- I. The _____ on God’s Design for Marriage (vs. 1-3).
 - The Pharisees often conspired to destroy Jesus (Matthew 12:14; Luke 11:53-54).
 - 2 Interpretive Options in Judaic Teaching
 - *Rabbi Hillel*: A liberal rabbi. Believed divorce could be for any form of “*indecent*” – sexual or not. The majority opinion in Jesus’ day.
 - *Rabbi Shammai*: Much more conservative. Believed the indecent was sexual immorality (e.g., adultery – during marriage or betrothal).
- II. The _____ from Jesus (vs. 4-12)
 - A. Marriage was _____ by God (vs. 4-6).
 - Jesus is referring to Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.
 - God created two genders and those genders cannot be altered.
 - When a man and woman marry, they are to leave their current homes and begin a family in a new place together.
 - The man and woman covenant with one another.
 - Marriage is the most intimate of relationships on earth.

B. God _____ divorce because of man's sin (vs. 7-8).

C. God _____ the occasion for divorce (Vs. 9).

- Under Mosaic Law, adultery was punishable by death (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22).
- Habitual adulterers will not inherit heaven (I Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8).
- Adultery is called a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19; Colossians 3:5).
- Adultery is a behavior of the old man, of the non-Christian (Ephesians 5:3-12).

III. The _____ Given by the Disciples (vs. 10-12)

CONCLUSION

- God created marriage.
- God's desired will is for marriage not to end in divorce.
- There are regulations for divorce: adultery (Matthew 19) and abandonment (I Corinthians 7).
- The married should reflect the Gospel in their roles.
- The unbiblically divorced should repent.

TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER

- 1) What are some unbiblical views of marriage in our culture? Have you detected an acceptance of any of these views in your own mind?
- 2) How can someone strengthen their existing marriage?
- 3) Book Recommendation – *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage* by Jim Newheiser