



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"Matthew 19:1-12" on April 15th and 18th, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 18:21-35 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 19:1-12

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

1. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
2. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

In this passage, the Pharisees were attempting to get Jesus to take sides on the subject of when divorce was allowable. Rather than answering those questions, Jesus responded with teaching on how much marriage matters— marriage is a representation of the wholeness of who God is! Jason spoke of two main vessels Jesus chose to show the world who He is, who God is: the CHURCH and MARRIAGE.

OUR BROKEN WORLD IS SEARCHING: In our culture today, we are surrounded by people who are searching for help, for truth, for forgiveness, and for acceptance; many are hurt, broken, and desperate. They find their mistakes or poor choices have consequences, and they are unable to move forward in their lives because of their searching.

- From where does your hope come?
- Through Jesus, we find acceptance, grace, mercy and truth – then why is it so hard for some people to find that?
- What can we do as Jesus' vessels to challenge the work of Satan, who works to diminish the church and diminish truth, causing the brokenness all around us?

MARRIAGE is the deepest of commitments – it is a picture of Christ and the Church, and it was, as Jason described it, "a Creation thing – before there was SIN, there was MARRIAGE!" It is a covenant not only between a man and a woman, but with GOD as well! It REALLY matters!

- Read Genesis 1:27-28. How are Christians today tempted or pressured by our broken world to drift away from the biblical view of marriage?
- What encouragement could you give others to stand firm against worldly viewpoints that differ from what God's word tells us?

DIVORCE: Malachi tells us God hates divorce, but Jesus' interactions with others shows us that it is not unredeemable. Jason used the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well to show that God offers grace, forgiveness, healing and acceptance when we are repentant and seek forgiveness, no matter what has happened in our past.

- Do you find that most people see divorce as a legal issue or a spiritual issue? How do you respond to that?
- What scriptural passages or biblical examples could you use to encourage and give hope to a person who divorced and remarried and is troubled by this section of Matthew 19?
- Can you tell of any opportunities you have had regarding discussion on divorce that allowed you to show both God's truth and God's grace?

SINGLENES: Jesus makes it clear that God honors singleness. Jesus Himself was single! Singleness can be a choice, a result of a marriage ended by death or divorce, or the way life has worked out.

- What challenges and/or opportunities does a single person have, living in our broken world today?
- How can Jesus' example of singleness encourage us in our work for the sake of the kingdom of heaven?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.