



Life after Love - Sunday, October 7th

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 19:3-12

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

Deuteronomy 24:1

When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her...he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house.

Jeremiah 3:8

I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce, and sent her away because of all her adulteries.

Sermon Points:

- *Hillel vs. Shammai – 2 Jewish rabbis who argued about what the “causes” of divorce are or should be.*
- *Biblical Permission for Divorce:*
 - *Adultery (Deut. 24:1, Matt. 19)*
 - *Emotional and physical neglect (Ex. 21:10-11, 1 Cor. 7)*
 - *Abandonment and abuse (included in neglect 1 Cor. 7)*
- *Permission not commanded – These can be overcome in and through Christ if both parties are willing to fight for and do the hard work of marriage.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first person to break your heart and how old were you when it happened?
2. How old were you when you first heard the word divorce? In what context did you hear it?
3. After reading Matthew 19:3-12, what is your first impression?
4. How has your impression changed after hearing today's message?
5. What role does a "hard heart" play in the dysfunction of any and every relationship?
6. If Jesus came to "heal the broken-hearted and set the captives free," then what can you do today to help someone you know, who has walked through the pain and brokenness of divorce, experience that healing and freedom?
7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
 - Action Steps: Either invite someone you know who has walked through the pain and brokenness of divorce to your small group or tell them about *The Landing* - <https://covechurch.com/ministries/the-landing> - a safe place for people to experience community and connection and find help and healing for their hurts, habits and hang ups.
 - If you need help figuring out your "next steps," including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email connect@covechurch.com.