



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: September 15, 2019

Passage: Passage: Matthew 19:3–12

Issues: Divorce and Remarriage

Context (3): *Difficulties and frustrations in marriages cause husbands and wives to look for reasons to divorce.*

Reality for Christ followers (4–6): *Marriage establishes a covenant relationship of oneness with our spouse to which we are to remain faithful.*

Sin and Exceptions (7–9): *Because of our sinfulness and wrong choices, God has allowed for divorce to take place. For a Christ follower, the “exceptions” are extremely limited: sexual sin that terminates the marriage bond and desertion by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:12–16).*

Main Thrust: *Followers of Christ must pursue faithfulness in their covenant relationship to their spouse because their marriage is a work of God.*

Takeaways:

1. Divorce always contradicts God's stated will for marriages.
2. Because of our sinfulness, Jesus did allow for very limited exceptions for his followers.
3. These exceptions seem to allow for the possibility of remarriage.

Current Realities:

- Is divorce or remarriage permissible for other reasons?
- What if I was divorced before becoming a follower of Christ?
- If I have chosen to get divorced and/or remarried for other reasons, have I sinned?
- If I was the guilty party or have gotten divorced for reasons other than what Jesus states here, can I get remarried?

Application Questions:

- What is the current view of marriage, divorce, and remarriage within our society today? Do you believe that Christians view it any differently? In what ways?
- What characterizes covenantal love that should be seen in the way that husbands and wives relate to each other?
- What exception does Jesus allow for divorce in this text? Does this, in turn, allow for remarriage? What occurs if divorce and remarriage happen for reasons other than this exception? What other exception does Paul allow for in 1 Cor. 7:12–16? Are there any other exceptions possible that may be a reason for divorce?
- What are some points that we should stress today in how we live this out in our church and culture in which real people, including Christians, go beyond what Jesus states here and divorce and remarry for unbiblical reasons? How do mercy and forgiveness fit into this discussion?

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