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Marriage, Divorce And Remarriage

Duet. 24:1-4

Life is filled with many opportunities and the decisions that we make will affect and impact our lives to advantage us or disadvantage us.

Some decisions have no real impact on our lives and even if we make the wrong one, they will help us to learn and develop.

1. We decide to lend money to a friend who is really not reliable and we never get paid back but that can be recovered.
2. We are impatient, so we buy that car that seems to be such a deal and a month later the engine blows up.
3. We invest time and care in a relationship, only to find out they are not they are not the one you want to spend the rest of your life with but since there has been no sexual involvement there is no regrets.

Yet other decisions will impact us for the rest of our lives.

1. The bearing of a child out of wedlock and decide not to get married.
2. The taking of drugs and it costs you your health.
3. The loss of a potential mate by your own doing to never be regained.

These are some mayor things that will impact your life from that point onward, and they all come about by our own personal decision and therefore we need to think through on the importance of each decision we make in our lives.

Allow me to share with you the two most important decisions in every person's life.

1. The decision to except Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

* This decision will determine where you will spend the rest of eternity.

2. The decision of who you will choose to be your life mate in marriage.

* This decision will determine how you will live the rest of your

The book entitled, The Day America Told The Truth, Americans rveal how they view marriage in an article entitled "What Men & Women Really Believe About Marriage".

Marriage in the 1990's just doesn't mean what it always used to mean. This is true across America in every single region.

The majority of men and women now believe in their hearts that it's a good idea to live together before marriage.

Almost half of all Americans take the thought one step further, nearly half of us say that there is no reason to ever getting married.

* Virginity is thought of today as a tradgedy instead of a treasue!

We want to deal with the decision of who you will chose to be your life mate in marriage by looking at the seriousness of marriage in three ways.

- I. The seriousness of sexual purity before marriage.

Duet. 22:13-30

- II. The seriousness of divorce in marriage. Duet.24:1-4

- III. The seriousness of the words of Jesus about marriage and divorce. Math. 19:1-12

- I. **The seriousness of sexual purity before marriage.**

Duet. 22:13-30

* The laws of sexual morality. 22:13-30

- A.** The case of being accused of being unchaste at the time of marriage by her husband was a serious matter. Deut. 22:13-21
- 1.** The charge of being unchaste is after going in sexually to her at their honeymoon. 22:13-14
 - a.** He goes on his honeymoon and consummates the marriage then detests her, resents and rejects her.
 - b.** He charges her with shameful conduct.
 - c.** He brings a bad name on her by declaring that she was not a virgin on their honeymoon.
 - 2.** The responsibility for her defense fell on her parents. 22:15-17
 - a.** They would bring forth the evidence of her virginity obtained at the night of the consummation to the elders of the city at the gate. 22:15
 - b.** The father of the young woman accused would declare that he had given his daughter to the man and now he detests her and has now charged her with shameful conduct saying she was not a virgin and then he would spread out the cloth before the elders of the city. 22:16-17
* Remember Joseph was going to put Mary away privately, so some did not resort to the letter of the law!
 - 3.** The consequences to the lying husband. 22:18-19
 - a.** He would be punished by the elders. vs. 18
 - b.** He would be fined 100 shekels of silver and given to her father for bringing a bad name on a virgin of Israel. vs. 19a-b
 - c.** He could not be able to divorce her all the days of his life. vs. 19c-d

- * This seems to be very unfair to the woman yet it provided society with order.
- 4.** The consequences to the lying wife. 22:20-21
 - a.** If in fact the tokens of her virginity could not be produced by her parents, she would be found guilty. vs. 20
* Lying about your sexual purity is deceptive, dishonest and dishonorable to your mate and can potentially result in your mate feeling angry, entrapment, vengeance and undermine the ability to trust you.
 - b.** The consequences were that she would be brought by the elder to the door of her father's house and the men of the city would stoned to death. vs. 21a-b
 - c.** The reason was four-fold. vs. 21c-e
 - 1)** She had done a disgraceful thing in Israel.
 - 2)** She had played the harlot in her father's house.
 - 3)** She was put away due to being an evil person.
 - 4)** She had been humbled by a man by sexual intercourse. vs. 24, 29, 21:14
* I found this term used eleven times in the Scriptures for what happens to a woman in sex before marriage. (Dinah. Gen. 34:2)
- B.** The case of adultery was punished by stoning. 22:22
- 1.** Both were stoned to death, being consensual not rape.
* They are both called adulterers in the scriptures not individuals who had an affair or made a mistake. Lev. 21:10
 - 2.** The act again put away the evil person from society.

- C.** The case of rape in the city. 22:23-24
1. The woman is betrothed to a husband, lawfully married but have not consummated the wedding, she is a virgin. vs. 23a
 2. The woman is found in the city and forced to lie with the man. vs. 23b
* The man is clearly the aggressor.
 3. They were both to be brought to the gate of the city and stoned. vs. 24a-b
 - a) The woman because she did not scream, for if she did someone would of helped her. vs. 24c
 - b) The man because he humbled his neighbor's wife. vs. 24d
 - c) The act once more puts away the evil person from among them. vs. 24e
- D.** The case of rape in the country. 22:25-27
1. The woman is a virgin betrothed or engaged to be married. vs. 25a
 2. The woman is forced to lie with the man. vs. 25b.
 3. The man alone is stoned. vs. 25c
 4. The reason given is that he found her in the country and came upon her suddenly, the benefit is given to her that she did cry out but no one was around to help her. vs. 26-27
- E.** The case of fornication with a virgin. 22:28-29
1. She is not betrothed but a virgin. vs. 28a-b
 2. She lies with him being enticed and they are found out. vs. 28c-d
 3. The man would give to the father of the woman 50 shekels of silver according to Exodus. vs. 29a, 22:16-17

4. She shall be his wife. vs. 29b
* This would not be the case today for we are not under law and sex doesn't constitute or demand a permanent union before God only a willing commitment of both out of love in marriage. 1 Cor 6:17-18
5. The reason she was to be his wife is that he humbled her by having sex with her. vs. 29c
6. He could not divorce her all the days of his lie. vs. 29d
 - a. Ladies you alone are the guardians of your own purity, you can not use the excuse that a man pressured you to justify your failure.
 - b. Many men will attempt to take your virginity but they will do only what you allow, otherwise it is rape, only you will determine how far a man will go and who you will give your virginity too.
 - c. The resentment and bitterness towards the man is due to having had sex with him, yet you are not bitter towards the other men you dated. Why, because you did not allow them to have sex with you.
 - d. Ladies when you give away your virginity several things take place.
 - 1) You become defiled as well as the man. Gen. 34:13
 - 2) You give your honor to another and your years to the cruel one, the man also. Prov. 5:9
 - 3) You sin against your own body as well as the man. 1Cor. 6:18
 - 4) You are humbled by the man, this is never stated of the man. 21:14, 22:24, 29
 - 5) You play the whore while in your father's house, also is never stated of the man. 22:21

The Day Am. Told The Truth:88-89

" One surprising statistic we discovered is that the rate of virgin marriages is highest in Metropolis, the region that includes the sophisticated and worldly cities of New York and Washington. Thirty-six percent of Metropolitans were virgins on their wedding day versus the national average of 29 percent".

"At the opposite end are the Pac Rim and Marlboro County where only one in five are virgins at marriage. Americans used to have the reputation of marrying for love as a reasons. Not any more: Only one in three Americans gave love as their primary reason for marrying".

Do you understand the seriousness of sexual purity before marriage?

II. The seriousness of divorce in marriage. Deut. 24:1-4

- A. The law is not a justified reason for divorce but an allowance.
1. People at times refer to this passage as if it was God's design much like the Pharisees when they declared to Jesus, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away? Math. 19:7
 2. The proclamation of Jesus was that because of the hardness of their hearts, he permitted them to divorce their wives, but from the beginning it was not so. Math.. 19:8
 3. The pattern of God for man was recorded in Genesis, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they two shall be one flesh. Gen. 2:24
 - a. There is a primary privilege of being one flesh in a sexual union, physical and emotional.

- 1) As an expression of one's love opposed to lust before marriage.
- 2) As an expression of one's surrender in a way no one else has ever known you as opposed to allowing many to know you sexually before marriage.
- 3) As an expression of one's commitment for life to be faithful and loyal as opposed to commitment till you conquer or are conquered and then abandoned for the next person as a piece of property to be used.
- 4) As an expression of one's enjoyment and fulfillment of each other as opposed to the quick selfish gratification of self without concern for the other person.

- b. There is a secondary privilege of being one flesh in sexual union, procreation.
- 1) The incredible experience of knowing that a living being is being created inside the woman's womb as opposed to a thing or mere tissue.
 - 2) The blending of two people's genes into one in their offspring, their features, characteristics, mannerisms etc.
 - 3) The awesome privilege of raising them in the Lord in order to impact the world for good with the Gospel.

- B. The law was an orderly concession in order that divorce not be considered lightly.
1. The condition is first stated.
 - a. When a man takes a wife and marries her and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her. vs. 1a-b.

- b. The entire interpretation hinges on the phrase "some uncleanness in her" which is vague.
 - 1) The word appears 53 times in the Old Testament.
 - a) Four or five refer to the nakedness of the land or spiritual nakedness of Israel.
 - b) The majority refer to a physical nakedness of a person.
 - c) The book of Leviticus is the most prominent with 28 occurrences.
 - 2) The word means literally, nakedness of a thing with the idea of immodesty, indecency or disgrace.
 - a) The word could not refer to sexual impurity before marriage, not being a virgin on her honeymoon for we have already seen that she would be stoned.
 - b) The word could also not refer to adultery either for the penalty was stoning not divorce. Lev. 20:10
 - c) The word can only refer to a some act or deed which the man could not or would not overlook and his mental and emotional feelings caused him to resent and abhor her.
 - * Confirming the words of Jesus that it was because of the hardness of their hearts Moses permitted them to divorce their wives. Math. 19:8
- 2. The procedure is given. vs. 1c-e
 - a. The man was to write a certificate of divorce and put it in her hand. vs. 1c-d
 - * Two witness was what the law required.
 - b. The man was to send her out of his house. vs. 1e
- 3. The potential scenario. vs. 2-4

- a. when she departs from the first husband's house she is free to marry another man. vs. 2
- b. If the second husband detests her and also writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out as the first or if the second husband dies. vs. 3
- c. Then her first husband who divorced her could not take her back to be his wife again because she had been defiled. vs. 4a
 - 1) What constituted her being defiled by her sexual union with another man and the statement is a sharp rebuke to the husband for he is the one responsible for her defilement by putting her out without just cause.
 - 2) The statement confirms that the reason for the divorce in the first place was not scriptural but an allowance to protect the woman from being abused, oppressed, living under unfavorable conditions.
 - 3) But the proclamation also is a stern warning the man, that he better think before he dismisses his wife because once he divorces her, he will loose her forever.
- d. This act was an abomination to the Lord. vs. 4b
 - * God's ideal and council to us is one man and one woman for life, in sexual union and marriage to insure physical health, emotional stability in one's life as well as for society!
- e. This act would bring sin on the land. vs. 4c
 - * Look at what no fault divorce has done to our homes and nation!

And even when children are involved, only 32 percent of us believe that we should try to stick out a bad marriage for the sake of the kids.

Divorce, in fact, is what will happen to most marriages: 44 percent of us agree that most marriages will end in divorce. And this fact may gladden the hearts of some lawyers.

A thumping 59 percent of all Americans believe that it's a smart idea to draw up a prenuptial agreement, just in case.

Do you understand the seriousness of divorce in marriage?

III. The seriousness of the words of Jesus about marriage and divorce. Math. 19:1-12

- A. Jesus had just finished the parable of the unforgiving servant at Galilee. Math. 19:1-3
1. The Lord had departed from Galilee towards Jerusalem by way of Perea on the east side of Jordan and come to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. vs. 1b
 2. The multitudes followed and Jesus was healing as well as teaching them Mark tell us. vs. 2, Mk. 10:1
 3. The Pharisees came to Him testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" vs. 3
 - a. The first school of thought was that of Shammai who taught that adultery was the only reason for divorce, based on Deuteronomy 24.
 - b. The second school of thought was that of Hillel who taught that for any reason a man could divorce his wife, based on Deuteronomy 24 also.

1) Jews were divorcing their wives if they burnt their bread or put too much salt on his food.

2) Rabbi Akeba said if you see a woman more beautiful than your wife, she would become unclean.

3) A woman could never divorce in Israel except for impotency, lack of providing & leprosy

B Jesus pointed them back to God's original creation and design where He created male & female. vs. 4, Gen. 1:27, 5:2

1. Distinct and different in kind, Adam & Eve not Adam & Steve.
*Today our perverted society is promoting all kinds of sick alternate life styles as the norm and natural.
2. The question was a sharp rebuke to these religious leaders who had the Scriptures yet they did not understand what they taught, "Have you not read".

C. Jesus also declared the purpose & design of God for male & female is marriage. vs. 5

1. Marriage was and is the reason a man leaves the home.
* Leave means to separate & sever the former relation but not abandonment.
2. Marriage joins a man to his wife and they become one flesh.
* One flesh in sexual union, a blend of the two in one through their children and one household in unit to glorify God in order to perpetuate a healthy and orderly society.

D. Jesus declares that male & female can never be two after marriage but one. vs. 6

1. Sex constitutes one flesh, a physical & spiritual union.

* The word "joined" means to glue. vs. 5, 6

2. Marriage is a divine institution that binds you permanently for life, what God has joined together no man should separate.

* The word "separate" means to depart or to place room between. vs. 6

E. Jesus is asked the logical question by the Pharisees, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce and to put her away? And He answers it." vs. 7-8

1. The words of Jesus seemed to contradict the words of Moses and the law.

2. The Pharisees thought the provision in Deuteronomy 24 were a law for divorce.

3. Jesus puts His finger on the heart of the problem as He tells them that Moses because of the hardness of their hearts permitted them to divorce their wives. vs. 8a-d

4. Jesus tells them that the true standard is given by God at the beginning, no divorce was provided for in Genesis.

5. The concession of Deuteronomy was to regulate some control for the soundness of society in Israel as well as protection for the woman.

a. Having to go through legal proceeding would cause the man to think what he was doing.

b. having to go through the legal proceedings, divorce would not become the norm nor lose its seriousness and shame.

c. Malachi records God view of divorce, " For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence." Mal. 2:16a-b

d. Can you now see the connection between the parable of the unforgiving servant and the discourse on divorce, that it is no coincidence but by design of the Holy Spirit. Math. 18:21-35

1) The parable reveals the main problem in divorce.

2) The refusal to forgive is the result of a hardened heart.

3) The hardened heart is evidence of man's self-centeredness & a wicked heart. Jer. 17:9, Math 15:18-19

F. Jesus proclaims the single reason for divorce. vs. 9a-c

* Paul adds abandonment. 1Cor 7:15-16

1. Jesus declares there is only one reason allowed for divorce, sexual immorality, unfaithfulness.

a. The word for sexual immorality is "pornea" which has a broad meaning in it's different forms to sexual sin.

b. For the most part the word is used for any sexual involvement before marriage including intercourse.

c. The context in our text is marriage therefore I believe it is limited to adultery not fornication before marriage.

1) Remember they already knew the law commanded them to stone the woman who passed herself off as a virgin in marriage as well as an adulterous wife or husband.

- 2) If Jesus meant fornication, sex before marriage as the reason for divorce, then Jesus opened up a can of worms for all the Gentiles to be saved out of the sexual immoral culture as well as the extreme immoral future generations saved out of the world.
- a) Our generation is a perfect example!
 - b) Remember sex before marriage is sin against your own body and God because you are married to no one.
- 3) If Jesus meant adultery then it confirms the fact that the oneness of the marriage has been defiled and violated and that would be the only allowance yet divorce is not commanded.
- a) Jesus is the authority, He said, " I say unto you" this is New Testament, we do not stone adulterers we are permitted to be free from the marriage bond.
 - b) The principle of the New Testament saint is forgiveness through the love and compassion of God to others as we have received, if there is genuine repentance, remember the unforgiving servant!
- * God's own forgiveness towards Israel through the example of Hosea and his wife who played the whore shows us the ability in Christ for love covers a multitude of sins. 1Pet. 4:8
2. Jesus declares what happens if you divorce for any other reason than adultery. vs. 9d-f
- a. The man who divorces his wife without there being adultery and marries another woman commits adultery. vs. 9d-e

- * But if there is genuine repentance after the divorce, God forgives and the state of their marriage is not adulterous any longer but only God knows if it is genuine! Mal 2:13-17
- b. The woman who is divorced for being an adulteress if she remarries, the man she marries commits adultery with her. vs. 9f
* The same genuine repentance as in the previous instance after the fact of divorce, ceases the relationship from being adulterous! Mal 2:13-17
 - c. The innocent party can remarry but not the guilty party, unless and until there is repentance. vs. 9d-f
* Some teach that if you have married a second time and you become a Christian you should divorce your mate and remarry your first wife or husband if they are not married, not so, you remain in the second marriage and glorify Christ!
- G. Jesus responds to His disciples' reaction to His teaching on divorce. vs. 10-12
- 1. The disciples concluded that if that be the only reason "adultery", it is better not to marry. vs. 10
* The disciples of Jesus at this point reveal they were in agreement with Hillel.
 - 2. Jesus declared that not all have the gift of being single. vs. 11, 1 Cor 7:7
 - 3. Jesus illustrates the gifted person in being able to live a single life without need of being married in contrast to various other types of unmarried singles. vs. 12
 - a. Eunuchs who are born with physical inability to be sexually active. vs. 12a

- b. Eunuchs who are made by men for the purpose of securing their a harems or punishment of sex crimes. vs. 12b
- c. Eunuchs who have made themselves single for the kingdom of heaven. vs. 12c
 - 1) By the gift of God.
 - 2) By the commitment, be it for the rigor or danger, not wanting to impose it on a mate.

Do you understand the seriousness of the words of Jesus about marriage and divorce?

Application

1. Date someone you have known for a while not a casual acquaintance and only a Christian.
2. Set the boundaries before you go out with the person and make a commitment in your heart before you find yourself in the back seat of a car.
3. Don't become to familiar with each other with your daily physical liberties, it breaks down your resistance.
4. Remember the type of persons you date and spend time with, you will probably marry.
5. Track with each other in honesty as to your commitment to each other, don't lead someone on.
6. Be honest about your sexual purity only to the person you are going to marry, it is no other person's business.
7. Understand that no marriage is perfect, it takes much of dying to self through Christ.
8. Cultivate your love in marriage and romance, it doesn't just happen.
9. Husbands and wives you have no business spending time alone with someone of the opposite sex without your mate, it is gives an appearance of evil and can be what leads to adultery.
10. Divorce should only be considered for adultery and abandonment, so consider well who you marry.
11. Marriage can be the greatest joy in life if we trust Jesus.

Conclusion

This is what the Bible teaches on marriage, divorce and remarriage, marriage is a serious matter, so remember:

- I. The seriousness of sexual purity before marriage.
- II. The seriousness of divorce in marriage.
- III. The seriousness of the words of Jesus about marriage and divorce.