

Matthew 19

Jesus

I. Marriage and Divorce

¹ Now it came to pass, when Jesus had **finished these sayings**, *that* He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

- **Matthew 18 Topics...** Pride, Hurt, Unforgiveness. Key/Cure? Humility
- **South to Judea...**
 1. **Toward Jerusalem:** Center of Religious Zeal
 2. Pharisees/Sadducees/Scribes: Big hats/Long Robes
 3. Coveting power/control through religious intimidation...

² And great multitudes followed [Jesus], and He healed them there.³ The Pharisees also came to Him, **testing Him**, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just any reason*?"

- Grace heals/Religion Tests

Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just any reason*?

⁴ And [Jesus] answered and said to them, "**Have you not read** that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Don't you read your Bible?

- God created marriage so what did God say about marriage? **Simple.**

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in **His own image**; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**

1. Marriage is between one man/one woman
 2. Marriage relationship takes priority over our relationship w/parents
 3. Marriage means a Man/Woman become one flesh physically/spiritually
 4. Marriage was/is intended by our Creator to last till death
- Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?
 - **Haven't you read your Bible?** Why are you asking Me about divorce not marriage?

The Pharisees wanted to talk about divorce/rabbinical opinions, but Jesus wanted to go back to the Scriptures and talk about marriage. Jesus began with the first marriage – the one between Adam and Eve. This emphasis on the Scriptures and on marriage, rather than divorce, is a wise approach for anyone interested in keeping a marriage together. [Guzik]

Divorce is not an option. No plan B
Therefore... what God has joined together **let not man separate**

- **Now the trap...** "So, you disagree with Moses?"

7 They said to [Jesus], "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the **hardness of your hearts, permitted you** to divorce your wives, but from the beginning **it was not so.**

- **Deuteronomy 24** If a man finds some **uncleanness** in his wife, he may divorce her
- Conveniently meaning broadened over time...
 1. From adultery to...
 2. Boiled egg to long/hard yoke
 3. Burned the toast
 4. Toilet paper upside down
 5. Hair in drain
 6. Irreconcilable differences...
- **Divorce hurts children:** Hard enough to be a kid
- **Divorce wounds participants:** 2 pieces colored carboard glued together/pulled apart

9 And **I say to you**, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

What matters is what Jesus says.
Moses permitted...Jesus commanded. Hear Him.

Hebrews 3:3 [Jesus is] counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house [Creator] has **more honor** than the house [creation].

Moses permitted divorce...but I command it **not to be so**
What does Jesus say?

- Divorce is forbidden unless sexual immorality and then still up to one offended
- Divorce for any other reason is **not valid in God eyes thus...**
 1. Marrying after divorcing for unbiblical reasons makes you an adulterer
 2. Marrying someone divorced for unbiblical reasons makes them an adulterer

I didn't say it. Moses didn't say it. **Jesus said it. Hear Him**

Q. Am I still married to my first spouse? Should I leave my new spouse for the first?

No. Two wrongs don't make a right.

NOTE: With regard to divorce and re-marriage...

- If you were divorced/re-married before you were saved you are not to divorce 2nd spouse and go back to 1st. What's done is done and your 2nd spouse is now your spouse till death do you part.
- If you are divorced/re-married as a saved person you also are not to divorce 2nd spouse and go back to 1st spouse. What's done is done. You are forgiven. The spouse you have now is your spouse till death do you part. All the promises and instruction for marriage apply to the spouse you have now. [Sounds complicated/What now?]

Stop blaming God. Your sin/disobedience have made things complicated.

Because of hardness of your heart...because of selfishness. Not because of God

- God takes Marriage very seriously: Picture of Christ/His Bride the Church
- Serious consequences for marring pictures...

Moses struck rock a 2nd time marring the picture of the sufficiency of Jesus **onetime sacrifice**. Consequence? Forbidden to go into the Promised Land. How many do not enjoy the fullness of the Spirit Filled life in the Promised land because they have marred the picture of God's unconditional love for us by getting divorced? [NJC]

Marriage Counseling: 101

Wives respect Husbands/Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the Church

- **No divorce apart from Adultery...**

10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." 11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: 12 For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

- **Disciples answer:** If God's commands are too hard then just bail. Courageous?

If we must stay married/work things out/maybe it's better not to get married at all?

- **Jesus.** Marriage is for most but not all...
 1. Some people are born to be celibate
 2. Some people are slaves/made eunuchs
 3. Some people choose to be single for the Kingdom's sake
- **Marriage is Blessing:** Becoming one for pleasure/Godly offspring

Malachi 2:15 [God made...] them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He **seeks godly offspring**. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

- **Jesus loves kids...**

Psalms 127:3 [Solomon] Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his **quiver full of them**

13 Then little children were brought to [Jesus] that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples **rebuked them**. 14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." 15 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

- Disciples rebuked the children? How long must I bear with you?

SUMMARY Marriage and Divorce

II. Rich Young Ruler

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "**Good Teacher, what good thing** shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

- What can I do to earn my way to Heaven?
- Salvation is a gift. Salvation cannot be earned.

Romans 6:23 ...the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The morning after a weeklong tent meeting an evangelist was putting the tent pegs in his car when a young boy approached him asking, "**What must I do to be saved?**". "Your too late" said the evangelist. The boy asked, "Why, because I missed your meeting?" The evangelist replied "**No... because what needed to be done has already been done.**"

17 So [Jesus] said to him, "**Why do you call Me good?** No one is good but One, that is, God.

Jesus is not saying that He is not God. Jesus is in fact saying that **He is God**

▪ **Rationale:**

1. Either Jesus is not good and thus not God or...
2. Jesus is good and He is God?

So...is Jesus good? Then Jesus is God.

If Jesus is good then He is God because no one is good but God

Men want to be seen as good, but no man is good. True, some men are better than others, but compared to Jesus no one is good...but God. [NJC]

17b... But if you **want to enter into life**, keep the commandments."

- **Requirement for Heaven is Perfection:** Keep the Commandments

18 He said to Him, "**Which ones?**" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. **What do I still lack?**"

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus, looking at him, **loved him**, and **said to him**, "One thing you lack..."

21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

You love your stuff more than God and that is idolatry
Thus, stuff is your God proving the World is your home.

...because a man's possessions are so liable to get into his heart, he is apt to turn them into idols, and to make devotion to them the great object of his life; as long as he does so, he cannot be saved. [Spurgeon]

- **10th Commandment:** Do not covet [not everyone's sin but his]

Requirement for Heaven is Perfection: Keep the Commandments

James 2:10 ...whoever shall keep the whole law yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

- What good thing shall I do? No good thing. You can't do a good thing

Isaiah 64:6 [flawed motives] ...we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...

- Salvation earned is no longer be a gift but a paycheck/God is a debtor to no man.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

What must I do to go to Heaven?
Get rid of your idol and follow Me...That's where I'm going

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Romans 3:20 ... by the deeds of the law **no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin**.

- **The law is good but it is not for the saved...**

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that **the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless** and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners...

The Law does not make us righteous...Jesus does

Romans 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed ...**22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

- **Q.** What good thing must I do to have Eternal Life
- **A.** Stop asking and trust in what Jesus did for you. Accept the Gift.

Just Covetousness? Judas sin was covetousness. As keeper of purse Judas got angry at Jesus generosity...an anger that opened the door to Satan and the betrayal of Christ. [NJC]

- **Sin is deceitful:** Whispering "It's not that bad...not as bad as _____"

Matthew 13:22 [Don't be tricked by] ...**deceitfulness of riches** [choking out Word of God]

1 Timothy 6:9 ... those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and **perdition** [Destruction, Damnable]. 10 For the love of **money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

SUMMARY Rich Young Ruler: Chose the world because the world was his home. Did he come back? **Q.** Where is our home? **A.** Where we have our treasure.

III. With God All Things Are Possible

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

- Rich feel no need for God. Moral man feels no need for God.

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "**Who then can be saved?**"

- **Chapter 19:** Jesus leaves us with no good options but to follow Him
 1. **Hard Teaching on Marriage:** Maybe best not to marry?
 2. **Hard Teaching on Salvation:** Who can be saved if that guy is walking away?
- **Maybe its best to throw it all in for Jesus?**

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible.**"

- **God can soften hearts as we pray...**
 1. Least likely to be prayed for? Rich, successful, moral people
 2. Most need to be prayed for? Rich, successful, moral people

Revelation 3:15 ... because you are **lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.** 17 Because **you say, 'I am rich,** have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ... **19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.** Therefore, be **zealous and repent.** 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that **in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne** of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- **The boys did give up all for Jesus:** Reward in Kingdom/Regeneration

Revelation 12:14 [Walls of New Jerusalem] twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

It's what Jesus does/What David did: Turns bums/bad guys into Mighty Men of valor

- Sit on 12 Thrones in Israel
- Rule over 12 Tribes 1000 years. [No more jokes about Peter]

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

- **Last first/First Last:** Reward Day Surprises

[Ancient Story] There was a brother who preached very mightily, and who had won many souls to Christ, and it was revealed to him one night, in a dream, that in heaven he would have no reward for all that he had done. He asked to whom the reward would go; and an angel told him that it would go to an old man who used to sit on the pulpit stairs, and pray for him. Well, it may be so, though it is more likely that both would share their Master's praise. We shall not be rewarded, however, simply according to our apparent success." [Spurgeon]

- What we do in secret will be rewarded by our Father in Heaven

Those behind the scenes serving without notice of man will be at the front of the line receiving the most glorious rewards from the hand of their God.

SUMMARY With God All Things Are Possible