

Satan is the archenemy of God. Would you agree? Satan is an incurable liar and a deceiver, and the Bible says he is the father of lies.

But there are two lies in particular that have shaped modern culture. Two lies. Lie number one is that life is random. Everything just evolved from a Big Bang. To put it another way, the universe, as it exists, was not created by God, nor is God the authority over this creation. It's just a matter of chance, random chance.

Second lie: Truth is relative. The Bible is not the Word of God. The Bible does not give us the truth about right and wrong, life and death, morality and immorality in the past and the future. There is no authority beyond yourself.

Life is random. Truth is relative. To say that life as we know it, the universe as we know it, is the work of the creator God who is its sovereign and its sustainer and who, as he began it, will bring it to its end, is to go against the grain of our culture, to say that truth is absolute and the truth is as revealed in the Bible is to generate the hostility of the society around us. Two great ideologies rule. No creator and no moral law. Therefore man has no accountability.

I touch on that because we will see in verse 4, 17 words spoken by Jesus that he touches every one of these issues. So let's read Matthew 19:1-6:

Matthew 19:1-6

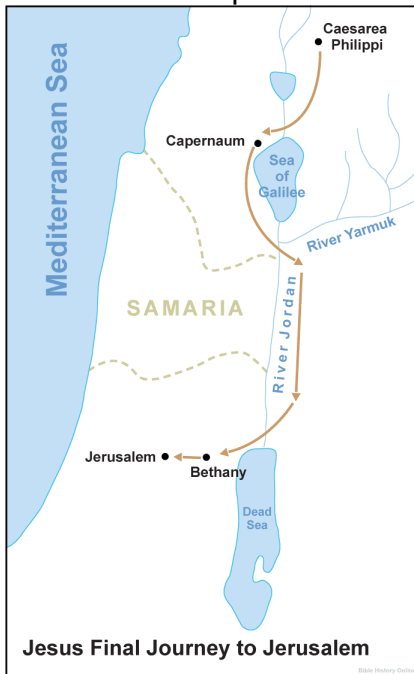
¹Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ²And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" ⁴He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

How did we get to this point of where we are today? Remember for the past few months Jesus has been pouring his time and all his effort into his disciples. Why? Because Jesus has told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and be turned over to the Pharisees and the rulers and be put to death.

We just learned through Chapter 18 Jesus' discourse on humility. We learned about:

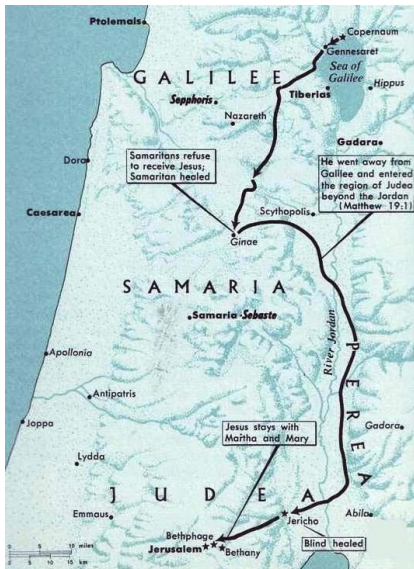
1. The humility as a child to enter the Kingdom of God.
2. How not to make young believers and older believers for that matter as well as non-believers to stumble over our lives as the Gospel is proclaimed.
3. How to overcome temptations of sin.
4. About going after the lost
5. How to work out if someone offends us and how that relates within the Church.
6. Forgiveness

Look at this map:



Jesus is leaving the area of Galilee and he is heading towards Jerusalem. Why is Jesus heading toward Jerusalem? To be crucified! Jesus will be betrayed, arrested, found guilty of blasphemy, hung on a cross and will die for the sins of mankind. But will rise again from that grave so that we may have an opportunity of eternal life through our acknowledgement of our sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.

So Jesus heads south and for some reason we are not sure about he does not go through Samaria. That would have been the quickest way to Jerusalem but Jesus heads east across the Jordan to an area called Perea and here is a better map to show that area.



But I would propose this thought to you. What feast is about to begin for the Jews? Passover! Correct! I would say the majority of the Jews that are traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover will not go through Samaria either. So Jesus is positioned to in an area where there would be multitudes of people traveling. But not only that but Jesus' fame is still exploding and crowds realize Jesus is on the move again. You know? God is on the Move, On the Move, Hallelujah!

So these multitudes are following him and what is he doing? Look at the picture:



He is healing people just like this blind man.

Matthew 19:2

² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Well, guess who else finds out that Jesus is on the move? The Pharisees! So the Pharisees come out to test him and they ask Jesus this question. Look at verse 3.

Matthew 19:3

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking. "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

Why this question and why at this time and place? Well let's first look at the location. This area is still governed by Herod Antipas. Who knows who Herod Antipas? Yes! He is the tetrarch, ruler of Galilee, that beheaded John the Baptist. Remember what led to John being beheaded? He kept telling Herod that his marriage with his wife was illegitimate. Because Herod stole Herodias from his brother Phillip.

So maybe the Pharisees thought if they could get Jesus to answer this question that maybe he would make Herod mad and he would meet the same fate as John the Baptist.

Also, you have two ruling schools here in Jerusalem.

- 1. Hillel – Which is named after the Jewish Scholar Hillel. They held to a more lenient allowance of divorce. Such as the question that was posed to Jesus, "For any cause".**
- 2. Shammai – Which is named after the Jewish Scholar Shammai. They held to a stricter view of where divorce may be permissible or if it is permissible at all.**

Remember also the Pharisees have added plenty of their own rules and regulations to the law God gave Moses. It is recorded that there were well over 300 additions to the law.

So they were trying to put Jesus at odds, with Moses and the Law, Herod, the Hillel or the Shammai.

So either way the Pharisees are hoping Jesus is going to make someone mad. You think the Pharisees would have learned their lesson by now. But here they stand with their pious, self-righteous selves and their 300 plus rules and regulations and this supposedly great knowledge of Scripture. Jesus gives quite a cutting answer to their question. Look at verses 4 and 5.

Matthew 19:4-5

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?"

Remember here, "What are the Pharisees going off of?" Their own rules. Their own opinion. Their own additions to the law and Jesus takes them right back to Genesis, right back to the actual word of God. Have you not read? Jesus could have said, "Have you not read the book of Genesis?" Jesus is telling them, "Let's see what God said about marriage!" Can you imagine how the Pharisees reacted? Jesus does not answer the question about divorce, Yet! But he takes them back to the standard to what all of this should be based off of. What Jesus is establishing is that the Word of God is the authority for all of life! Turn to Psalm 19. Look at verses 7 to 9.

Psalm 19:7-9

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

It is amazing how we will be and have been on this topic of truth on Wednesday night and Sunday. But this is what Jesus is establishing again. What is the truth? When we start saying things like, "Well, I believe." And, "Well, I think!" We start down a treacherous path that leads to what Paul wrote about in the book of Romans. Look at the screens:

Romans 1:21-23

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

This goes back to what I said at the beginning about the two areas that Satan attacks with his lies. Creation! If there is no creation then there is no God! Then there is no moral law which is He we make up our own truth.

In these verses Jesus once again establishes that truth starts with God and his word. Look at verse 4 again.

Matthew 19:4

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?"

Have you not read? God's word! That he! God! Created! I want to speak to that just for a moment. Because what are we being told more than ever? We evolved! Everything evolved from a single cell. That after the so called, Big Bang, that everything banged into each other and after enough time we have what we got right now. And somehow science has proved all this. Let me reiterate once again that Evolution is not Science. Evolution is a religion. Why? Because it speaks to origins and if you speak to origins then you are stepping into the realm of

what makes us act the way we do. Why are there things we believe to be right and things we believe to be wrong?

Let's look at a couple of examples:

First, in the Biblical worldview, just as Jesus is stating here we believe that God created everything. Just as it states in Genesis Chapter 1 and 2. That as it states in Hebrews 11:3: Look at the screens:

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things visible.

Yes. By faith we believe this. But that is no more and no less a faith statement than to say as Atheists and Evolutionists say that nothing created itself. First step of simple logic dictates that nothing comes from nothing. "Nothing" is nonexistent and therefore lacks the power to do. Indeed, this "power to do" logically presupposes the existence of a thing that possesses that power

Of course there is so much more we can say about that subject. But since God did create everything he created human beings for specific roles. Just as he created the earth to where life could exist on it and serve a purpose. Just as he created the plants and animals he created human beings. But he created them in a very distinct way. First what does Genesis 1:27 tell us? We are created in his image. This separates us from the animal kingdom. We have a soul and a conscience to know and to seek what is right and wrong. Then he created them male and female.

And it is very emphatic in Genesis that he created one male and one female. Are not male and female different. I am not just talking about anatomically. But emotionally and how we think. The woman is very intuitive and nurturing and the man is Mr. I am here to fix everything. Stay out of my way but I can only do one thing at a time as I am doing it.

Because people, the train is coming down the track and I don't think it has any brakes. The mantra now coming out of the LGBTQ organizations is this. Sex is nothing but genitalia. Gender is expression! Did you hear me? That means you can again decide whatever gender you want to be. This is being propagated through every outlet that they can use. School systems, music, internet, news media and TV shows.

But in our genetic make-up and how we are created we are distinctly created male and female. Then Jesus gives us the purpose of these distinctions and when they are brought together one of the greatest relationships that God designed is created. This is where we see God's design, God's view of marriage.

May I also say? When people try to argue that Jesus did not say anything about homosexuality and homosexual marriage. Point them to this Scripture. We also must remember. Jesus is God and throughout the whole of Scripture it is very clear God's design of marriage and if people want to talk about Paul and his writings. Again, who taught Paul and the Apostles? Who was he teaching through this discussion with the Pharisees? His Apostles and everyone around them. Who led Paul to write his letters? The Holy Spirit of God.

Rosario Butterfield wrote this about homosexuality:

The issue is not primarily homosexuality; it's Scripture. The issue is not primarily gay marriage; it's whether "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

We are that point of how does Jesus describes marriage. Look at verses 4 – 6.

⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

So a man will leave his mother and father! By Mom and Dad! Cut the apron strings! It says "Hold Fast". In the King James and NASB it says cleave! The Greek word for this is:

Kollao –

- 1. To glue, to glue together, cement, fasten together***
- 2. To join or fasten firmly together***
- 3. To join one's self to, cleave to***

You can think of all the examples of Krazy Glue, Super Glue, Gorilla Glue, Cement, Liquid Nails and the bond that is created when you apply those adhesives. We have talked about the design and the make-up of marriage but how does it actively look. I can't think of a better set of verses than Ephesians 5:22-33 but on the time we have left I am going to focus on verses 25-27 and verses 31 and 32.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Points to make

- 1. We take the wife unto ourselves and we become one!**
- 2. Husbands love our wives! Cherish, Protect, Serve, Lead**
- 3. There is an order and the man is to lead!**

So we see God's design or view of marriage. But why such a war on the definition of marriage? Why such contention and hostility to those of us who say that the Word of God is very clear on this subject. Why should we stand strong on this and adhere to the authority of God's Word.

It goes back again to what is true. It is also what God uses to show to us the relationship that he designed between Jesus and the believer. So to try to change this truth is to completely

disparage God and Jesus and his relationship he set up. Because here it is again as we look at verses 31 and 32 in Ephesians 5.

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

We've heard that before haven't we? God, in Genesis 1, Jesus in Matthew 19 and here we have Paul quoting what God and Jesus said. Now we see how this ties in to Jesus and the Church.

This mystery! This relationship of man and woman in marriage in its intimacy and sacrifice to each other is brought before us to show us God's desire for his relationship to be restored with mankind. You see there is going to be a marriage in heaven.

In 2 Corinthians Paul writes to the Corinthian that through his proclaiming of the Gospel he is presenting the Christ, the Husband, a pure virgin, a wife.

We just read it in Ephesians that one day the Church, the true followers of Jesus Christ will be presented to Jesus as his bride and we will celebrate at the marriage supper of the lamb and we will feast. But you will not be part of that marriage unless you have repented of your sins and surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Like in Matthew 25 and we will get to that soon. You will be like the 5 foolish virgins who were not prepared to meet the bridegroom and you will spend eternity in hell separated from Jesus.

For us believers! Even so come, Lord Jesus, Come! If you are not saved today you come and give your life to Christ today.