

Southside Baptist Church  
Wednesday Night Worship – 7-9-25  
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 2  
Marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Encouragement and equipping.
  - a) “General rule” – do not divorce.
  - b) “Exception clause” – divorce permitted but not commanded.
- 2) Verse 3 – The Pharisee’s tempt Jesus with a question.
  - a) “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?”
  - b) “for every cause” could translate to “for whatever reason he wishes.”
- 3) The question is from the debate over Deuteronomy 24:1.
  - a) Remember the Rabbis take on this?
- 4) Verse 4 – “Have ye not read?”
- 5) Verse 5 - Jesus quoted Genesis 2:24.
  - a) “shall be one flesh” – joined inseparately to his wife.
  - b) “one flesh” – so completely one they shall no longer be two people but one.
- 6) Verse 6 – “What therefore God hath joined together” – God “yokes” together.
  - a) “let not man put asunder” – no one must separate what God has joined together.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Keep our focus on God’s design.

2. The Pharisee’s ask a follow up question. Verse 7

a. Why was divorce allowed?

- 1) Verse 7 –
  - a) I do think this was a good question.
  - b) God did not create divorce; man did but God regulates it.

3. Hardness of hearts. Verse 8

a. Verse 8 –

- 1) Jesus exposes the reasoning behind why it was permitted.
  - a) “the hardness of your hearts” – one whose heart is hardened.
  - b) Could also translate – “because you are so hard to teach.”
  - c) They were missing key information.
- 2) Divorce proofing your marriage must include guarding your heart against hardness.
- 3) “suffered” – means to permit, allow or give leave.
- 4) “but from the beginning it was not so.”
  - a) This was not the way of things at the beginning.
- 5) Could this really make a difference?
  - a) A clear understanding of marriage and what God created.

4. The “exception clause”: Verse 9

a. Verse 9 –

- 1) In the O.T. adultery was punishable by death. N.T. there is one exception so far.

b. The word Jesus used here:

- 1) "fornication" – "porneia" – can mean fornication or sexual sin.
- 2) Should Matthew have included this here?
- 3) Some suggest including it here weakens or puts the marriage commitment in jeopardy.
  - a) Couldn't it have the opposite effect?

c. What about remarriage?

- 1) If you have someone who is divorced because of sexual sin, they are free to remarry.  
Permitted but not commanded.

d. Is there a difference between fornication and adultery?

- 1) Fornication – "porneia" – fornication or sexual sin.
- 2) Adultery – "moichao" – unlawful intercourse with another's wife, to commit adultery with.
- 3) The distinction:
  - a) "porneia" – sexual sin of any and all sorts.
  - b) "moichao" – sexual sin of unfaithfulness toward your spouse.
- 4) In the Bible, the writers use the word "fornication" to speak of sexual sin in general.
  - a) Incest, I Cor. 5:1; Homosexuality, Jude 7; Adultery, Jer. 3:1-2,6,8.
- 5) When using the word "adultery" keep in mind that it is referencing more than just sexual sin.
- 6) Why did Jesus use the term "fornication" instead of the term "adultery"?
  - a) The emphasis is on sexual sin in general, which can include adultery.
  - b) The act of sexual sin violates the marriage covenant.

e. So why does Jesus focus on the act?

- 1) He is covering each possibility.
  - a) "porneia" – covers incest, rape, bestiality, homosexuality as well as adultery.
- 2) Is engagement in view here?
  - a) Some suggest that the Pharisees have Joseph and Mary in view here.
  - b) How can you respond to this?
- 3) Did you know that God divorced Israel for adulterous fornication?
  - a) Jeremiah 3:1-8 –
- 4) What is Jesus' desire if sexual sin takes place in a marriage?
  - a) Based on scripture I believe that would be reconciliation.

5. Tonight's Take Away:

- a. Looking back at this passage –
- b. Looking back, do you see God's grace?
- c. God's desire when trouble strikes.