

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 10-7-25
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 12
Marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Paul turned his attention and wisdom back toward speaking to singleness and marriage.
- 2) Verses 32-33 – Paul spoke to the men.
- 3) Verse 34 – Paul spoke to the women.
- 4) Verse 35 – While Paul's counsel was useful, expedient and wise, it was not absolutely necessary to follow.
- 5) Verses 36-38 – You do not have to get married.
- 6) Verse 39 – Commonly known truth about marriage.
- 7) Verse 40 – Paul again encouraged singleness in this situation.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We have studied the main passages on this topic.
- 2) When it comes to the subject of divorce, did you know God divorced Israel?

2. God divorces Israel. Let's begin by understanding...

a. How divorce for fornication came about.

- 1) The answer is in the Old Testament.

b. God is seen as Israel's husband.

- 1) **Isaiah 54:5** – “For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.”
- 2) **Jeremiah 3:14** – “Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.”
- 3) **Hosea 2:19-20** – “And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. ²⁰ I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.”

3. Let's look at the relationship between God and Israel.

a. Many passages of scripture must be considered.

- 1) Speaks of God's engagement:
 - a) **Ezekiel 16:8** – “Now I passed by you again and looked upon you; behold, you were maturing *and* at the time for love, and I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I plighted My troth to you and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord, and you became Mine.”
- 2) The story of Israel in Egypt. Covered in Exodus 19-24
 - a) **Exodus 19:5-6** – “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”
 - b) **Exodus 19:8** – “And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.”
 - c) **Jeremiah 2:2** – “Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says the Lord: I [earnestly] remember the kindness and devotion of your youth, your love after your

betrothal [in Egypt] and marriage [at Sinai] when you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.” Amplified Bible

b. Statements God makes about Israel.

- 1) **Jeremiah 2:20** – “For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.”
- 2) **Jeremiah 3:23-25** – “Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. 24 For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. 25 We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.”
- 3) **Jeremiah 3:6** – “The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.”
- 4) **Jeremiah 3:8-9** – “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery, I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. 9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.”
- 5) **Hosea 2:5** – “For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.”
- 6) **Hosea 2:7** – “And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.”
- 7) **Hosea 2:13** – “And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD.”
- 8) **Ezekiel 23:17-19** – “And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them. 18 So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister. 19 Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.”
- 9) **Ezekiel 23:29** – “And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.”

c. What does God do here?

- 1) **Jeremiah 3:1-2** – “They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD. 2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.”

- 2) **Jeremiah 3:8** – “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.”
- 3) Is Israel guilty of spiritual adultery? Yes!
- 4) **Hosea 14:1-2** – “O ISRAEL, return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled and fallen, [visited by calamity] due to your iniquity. 2 Take with you words and return to the Lord. Say to Him, Take away all our iniquity; accept what is good and receive us graciously; so will we render [our thanks] as bullocks [to be sacrificed] and pay the confession of our lips.”
Amplified.
 - a) It is important to note here that God is the one that took the initiative.
- 5) **Hosea 2:14** – “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.”
- 6) **Hosea 2:16** – “And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi (my husband); and shalt call me no more Baali.”(my baal)
- 7) **Jeremiah 3:13-14** – “Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:”
 - a) **Hosea 2:7** – “And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.”

d. Israel does respond.

- 1) This is interesting to try and explain.
 - a) You can see at times after judgement or exile that Israel was pricked in their hearts which lead to partial and or temporary returns to God.
- 2) God’s heart and desire.
 - a) **Isaiah 54:5-8** – “For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. 6 For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.”

4. Tonight’s Take Away:

a. Summary thoughts.

- 1) The adulteress has become the bride of God as though she had never been unfaithful.
- 2) It seems that divorce for the reason of adultery by fornication was an option for God with Israel.
- 3) We look at David’s situation where he committed both murder and adultery. Each could have resulted in his death and yet God forgave him.

b. One final question.

- 1) Why does God hate divorce?