

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 7-2-25
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 1
Marriage, divorce and remarriage.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We move from a study about forgiveness, the restoring of relationship/fellowship with one another to the subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage.
- 2) Matthew – the importance of keeping short accounts and church discipline.
- 3) Forgiveness isn't about earning, deserving, repayment or getting even. It is about GRACE.
- 4) Forgiveness is a step of faith at times.
- 5) There is a danger of holding on to unforgiveness.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) While we are in Matthew 19, we will also look at other important passages as well.
- 2) I hope to answer some tough questions.
- 3) You will hear what some term as the "general rule" when it comes to the question of divorce.
- 4) You will hear what some term as the "exception clause" when it comes to divorce.
- 5) I hope that you will stay with me through this study.
- 6) It may be that you will not agree with me at times with what I share.
- 7) At times when teaching through this some may think that what they have done is wrong and not sure what to do.
- 8) We will start here tonight with this passage in Matthew 19.

2. The Pharisees sought to tempt Jesus with this question. Matthew 19:1-3

a. Jesus moves from Galilee to the coasts of Judea.

- 1) Verse 1 –
 - a) Interesting that Jesus is on the east side of the Jordan.
- 2) Verse 2 –
 - a) Jesus healed the people and taught them.
 - b) It is important to understand this conversation.

b. Transitional thought.

- 1) They are trying to trick Jesus with their question.

3. Look at what the Pharisees want to know. Verse 3

a. Verse 3 –

- 1) "tempting" – to test maliciously.
- 2) "for every cause" can be translated "for whatever reason he wishes"
 - a) Does that sound a little strange?
- 3) The question – "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"
 - a) There seems to be more to the question.
- 4) Talmud – a collection of writings that covered the full gamut of Jewish laws and tradition.
- 5) The Mishnah is the main text of the Talmud.
 - a) What the Rabbis taught and expounded on.

b. Here is a part of the backstory of their question.

1)Deuteronomy 24:1 –

a)“uncleanness” – nakedness of a thing, probably indecency, improper behavior.

2)The discussion is between 3 Rabbis.

a)Rabbi Shammai had the reputation for being strict and rigid in his application of the Law and very literal in his interpretation of the scriptures.

b)Hillel was more liberal and human in his application of the Law.

c.Here is a part of the debate:

1)Shammai – if she has committed adultery.

2)Hillel – if she burned or oversalted a dish.

3)Akiva – if he has found another woman who is better looking than her.

4)Can you see the point of their question more clearly?

5)Are all three of the Rabbis, right? Are any of them, right?

4.Jesus responds to the Pharisees. Matthew 19:4-6

a.Verse 4 –

1)Here are the other passages we see involved in this conversation.

a)Deut. 24:1; Genesis 1:27.

2)Jesus asked them “Have you not read...”

b.Verse 5 –

1)Genesis 2:24 – You can see God’s plan and purpose here.

2)How important would it be for this new husband to understand God’s plan prior to marriage rather than learning after the fact?

a)“shall be one flesh” – will be joined inseparately to his wife.

3)Being one flesh speaks of the oneness that happens at marriage and continues as the two grow together to be one person.

a)Oneness – they shall become so completely one that they shall be no longer two persons but one.

c.Verse 6 –

1)“God hath joined together” – God “yokes” them together.

2)“let not man put asunder” – no one must separate a man and woman whom God has joined together as husband and wife.

3)Verses 4-6 – marriage is lifelong – “general rule” – do not get a divorce.

4)But doesn’t Jesus provide an exception?

5.Tonight’s Take Away:

a.What have we seen so far?

1)The Pharisees question stems from a debate.

2)Jesus reveals some very clear principles here.