

Southside Baptist Church  
Wednesday Night Worship – 7-23-25  
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 3  
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) “leave” – depart –
  - b) “cleave” – cling to -
  - c) “shall be one flesh” – joined inseparately to his wife.
  - d) “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) What can harden someone’s heart?
  - a) Hebrews 3:13 –
  - b) Exodus 8:15,32 –
  - c) Ephesians 4:31-32 –
- 3) Fulfilling God’s plan and design for marriage includes guarding your heart from being hardened.
- 4) “suffered” – means to allow.
- 5) “but from the beginning it was not so.”
  - a) This was not the way of things at the beginning.
- 6) 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. Why did Jesus use two different words in this verse?

- 1) Fornication – “porneia” – fornication or sexual sin.
- 2) Adultery – “moichao” – unlawful act of being intimate with another person's spouse.
- 3) The distinction:
  - a) “porneia” – more general in its use.
  - b) “moichao” – unlawful act of being intimate with another person's spouse.

d. What about remarriage?

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

e. Let's come back to God's desire and design.

- 1) If “fornication” takes place in a marriage. What can they do?

5. Tonight's Take Away:

- a. What do we see here?
- b. Do you see God's grace?
- c. Do you understand God's desire when trouble strikes.