

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 8-6-25
Matthew Chapter 19 Part 5
Marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We wrapped up the first part of Matthew 19 last week.
 - a) The sin of “fornication” is grounds to permit a biblical divorce.
 - b) This exception that Jesus presents could positively impact those considering marriage.
 - c) Remarriage is permitted if divorce is biblically justified.
- 2) In verse 10 – the disciples asked a question of Jesus.
- 3) Jesus spoke of singleness in verses 11-12.
 - a) Some choose this life of singleness - “for the kingdom of heaven’s sake.”
- 4) Marriage was God’s idea – “not good that the man should be alone.” Gen. 2:18

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) This is not the only passage in the Bible about this topic.
 - a) A good opportunity for a systematic look at this subject.
 - b) This next passage will expose the fleshiness of man’s heart that seems to flow from the surrounding culture of that time.

2. The first time we see marriage issues in the Word. Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

a. How did this begin?

- 1) Matthew 19 – “hardness of heart.”
 - a) “hardness of heart” – characteristic of one whose heart is hardened.
 - b) Implication – “because you are so hard to teach.”
 - c) They were not listening, learning, or retaining what God had said.
 - d) This makes sense because –

b. Divorce was man’s idea, not God’s.

- 1) Matthew 19:8 – “but from the beginning it was not so.”
- 2) There is a legal protocol – “bill of divorcement.”
- 3) God does not ignore divorce, nor does He denounce it completely.

3. You can see here marriage, divorce, and remarriage addressed.

a. Verse 1 –

b. Consider the legal process here.

- 1) First – there was a written bill of divorce.
- 2) Second – the bill of divorcement must be served.
- 3) Third – the divorced person must be sent from the home.

c. What do we see here?

- 1) A bill of divorce was a formal, public document, signed by witnesses and intended to stand as a legal record for any future use.
- 2) It is intended to state the permanent separation of the divorced parties.

d. Do not forget about the consequences.

- 1) The woman who is divorced and marries another cannot go back to her previous husband.
- 2) Why?
 - a) It prohibits the prostitution of the wife.
 - b) He cannot just casually send her away.
 - c) He cannot do this to obtain more money.

4. Was this divorce biblically justified?

a. What Moses permitted, was it a biblically justified divorce?

- b. Two questions:
 - 1) First – what were the grounds for the divorce?
 - a) “erwath dabar” – a matter of nakedness.
 - b) Many do not see this as being adultery. Why?
 - 2) The teaching of Hillel shifted the view of divorce.
 - a) The reason Moses told them there had to be a written bill of divorcement –
 - 3) Moses is not in conflict with what Jesus said.
 - 4) Moses is confronting the pagan cultures of his day.
- c. Second question.
 - 1) How is it that the woman was defiled?
 - a) Here is where it gets interesting.
 - b) She cannot remarry her first husband because she has been “defiled.”
 - c) Her divorce from her first husband could not have been biblically justified.
 - 2) This is in line with what Jesus said in Matthew 5 and 19.
- d. The Pharisees were missing the main point.
 - 1) They are missing the seriousness of God’s plan and purpose in marriage.
 - 2) The first husband is the one who caused her to be defiled.
 - 3) Some make this mistake when looking at verse 1.
 - 4) The culture can impact marriage.
- 5. Tonight’s Take Away:
 - a. From Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - 1) It recognizes divorce as an existing legal process that it regulates.
 - 2) It does not allow for divorce for a cause other than fornication.
 - 3) It does not encourage easy divorce.