

Don't Take the Bait: Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Matt. 19:1-12

Introduction:

- A. As I begin this morning, I want you to understand that this subject is a very difficult subject.
- B. It is very difficult not because it's hard to understand, but because it's very hard for many to accept.
- C. My aim is to look at what God's Word has to say and allow the Bible to speak for itself.

What Jesus Teaches About Marriage (Matt. 19:1-5)

- A. Marriage is between a man and woman (Matt. 19:4-5; Gen. 2:18-24).
 - 1. Marriage is between only ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN (Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 7:2).
 - 2. Homosexuality is condemned (I Cor. 6:9-10).
- B. Marriage is for life (Matt. 19:6; Rom. 7:2).

What Jesus Teaches About Divorce (Matt. 19:6-8)

- A. Jesus had already said that marriage was a permanent arrangement (Matt. 5:32; 19:6, 9; Rom. 7:1-4).
- B. Jesus told the Pharisees it was because of the hardness of their hearts that Moses permitted divorce, but it was not so from the beginning (v. 8). Moses was not commanding divorce, nor giving divine approval for divorce (Deut. 24:1-4). Moses was trying to regulate what was already happening.
- C. When it comes to divorce, Jesus and Paul both said don't do it (Matt. 19:6-9; I Cor. 7:10-11; Mal. 2:16).

What Jesus Teaches About Remarriage (Matt. 19:9-12)

- A. If one's mate dies, the spouse is free to marry (Rom. 7:2-3).
- B. The only divorced person who is eligible to remarry in God's sight (while the former mate is still living) is the person who divorced his or her scriptural mate for that mate's sexual unfaithfulness.

Three Questions Often Asked:

- A. What do you do if you are divorced for a reason other than sexual infidelity? Remain unmarried or be reconciled (I Cor. 7:10-11).
- B. Doesn't God want me to be happy? God is more concerned about your holiness than He is your happiness (I Pet. 1:15-16).
- C. Doesn't baptism wash away an unscriptural marriage? Before forgiveness can be received, one has to repent of their sins (Acts 2:38; I Cor. 6:9-11).

Conclusion:

- A. The disciples understood what Jesus was teaching. They even interrupted it as strict (Matt. 19:10-12).
- B. Jesus never promised that everything would be easy. We are to take up our cross (Matt. 16:24).
- C. When it comes to marriage, we must choose our spouse carefully.