

Story Time

Jesus Validates Old Testament Accounts

Part 1 - Marriage is sacred because it propels humanity's purpose

Jesus is asked a test question Matthew 19:3-5
Q = "Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife for any reason at all?"
A = Jesus connects Marriage/Family to the **creation** account

Marriage is the pinnacle of God's seven-day work Genesis 1-2

Day 1 - God creates **LIGHT** to shine on the earth Genesis 1:3-5

Day 2 – God creates a global **GREENHOUSE** Genesis 1:6-8

Day 3 – God reveals **LAND**, creates all **PLANT LIFE** Genesis 1:9-13

Day 4 – God creates our **SOLAR SYSTEM** and the **GALAXIES**
Genesis 1:14-19

Day 5 - God creates all **SEA LIFE** and **FOWL** Genesis 1:20-23

Day 6 – God creates **LAND ANIMALS** and **ADAM** and **EVE**
Genesis 1:24-31, 2:15-25

Day 7 – God creates a sacred **DAY OF REST** Genesis 2:1-3

Jesus' point: Marriage is **sacred** because it is foundational to fulfilling humanity's purposes (to fully reflect His image AND be fruitful and fill the earth).

Protecting marriage's **definition**, its **participants**, and its **process** is vitally important. Genesis 1:28, Matt. 19:3-11

Auburn Grace Community church – June 4th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 4, 2023

Matthew 19:3-5 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?"

DISCOVER (Read Matthew 19:3-11)

1. What was (or would be) mom's advice to you about marriage? What about dad's advice? Growing-up, what was your understanding of marriage? How has that understanding changed?
2. In our culture, it is commonplace for a man and woman to live together prior to finally getting married. Why does this trend violate the process of marriage that God intends for us? Is it possible to convince non-believers that sexual purity and abstinence will greatly bless their pre-marital relationship as well as their marriage? Why or why not?
3. When tested by the Pharisees, why did Jesus immediately refer to the creation account in Genesis? Why is it important to emphasize "foundations"?

EXPLORE

1. Re-read Matthew 19:3-5. Why were the Pharisees asking this question? What would they gain by tricking Jesus into opposing Moses?
2. In this passage, why doesn't Jesus debate divorce? Why does He focus on marriage instead? How is He reversing the trap?
3. What was Moses' real intention in allowing divorce? How was this misapplied to support adultery? What was Jesus really condemning? How might His answer be different if a divorcée truly seeking God had asked the question?
4. What risks was Jesus taking in stating v. 9? In this verse, Jesus makes an exception or an allowance for divorce. Is this exceptive clause an addition reflecting the hardness of men's hearts? Or – is it an expansion stating the obvious, that if something is done which by its very nature dissolves the marriage bond, then the bond is dissolved? Is this an exception that only pertains to Jewish customs or does it apply to Gentiles as well? (see Matthew 5:31-32 and Luke 16:18).
5. How do you think Jesus' disciples viewed marriage? Why do you think that is? (see v. 19:10)
6. Is it wise to take Jesus' rulings on marriage and divorce (or other practical issues) and give them legislative power? Explain.

EXPERIENCE

1. What do you need to work on to have the marriage that God desires for you?
2. When divorce occurs, what hope does Jesus (and the gospel) offer someone?
3. In what ways do we "defile the marriage bed"? In what ways can we work towards in keeping our marriages sacred?

PRAY

Pray... Our Father and our God, help us to guard our hearts from a legalistic mind that looks for ways to justify ourselves and ways to find loopholes in our weaknesses. Give us wisdom to focus on what's important and to be faithful even in those areas that are sometimes not considered to be important. We pray for hearts that want what You desire for humanity and for hearts that are merciful to those who do not succeed or accept Your sacred ideals. Amen.