

JESUS' TEACHING ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE
(Matthew 19:1-12)

- I. Returning to PUBLIC MINISTRY (Matt. 19:1-3a)
 - A. Moves from GALILEE into Perea
 - B. Attracts both CROWDS and CRITICS
- II. Addressing a PUBLIC CONTROVERSY (Matt. 19:3b-9)
 - A. The critics' CHALLENGE for Jesus: "Is it LAWFUL for a man to DIVORCE his wife for ANY reason?" (19:3b)
 - B. Jesus' REBUKE of the critics: "Have you NOT READ...?" (19:4a)
 - C. Jesus' citation of PRIOR AUTHORITY (19:4b-5; cf. Gen. 1:27; 2:24)
 - 1. God created a SINGLE PAIR of humans: a MALE and a FEMALE
 - 2. Marriage takes precedence over ties to PARENTS
 - 3. The husband is JOINED to his wife, and the two become "ONE FLESH"
 - D. Jesus' explanation on the basis of DEFINITIONS (19:6)
 - 1. Every MARRIAGE is a divine CREATION
 - 2. Every DIVORCE is a human attempt to DESTROY something God created
 - E. The critics' MISGUIDED appeal to the LAW (19:7; cf. Deut. 24:1-4)

1. They IGNORED what Jesus said was God's INTENT
 2. They CLAIMED Moses COMMANDED divorce
- F. Jesus' CORRECTION of their ERROR (19:8-9)
1. Moses PERMITTED divorce due to your SIN
 2. To divorce for any reason other than "IMMORALITY" and then remarry is to commit ADULTERY
 - a. An "EXCEPTION" found only in MATTHEW (5:32; 19:9; cf. Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7)
 - b. Clarifying JOSEPH'S plan in MARY'S case (Matt. 1:18-19)
- G. The disciples concluded it would be BETTER not to MARRY (19:10)
- H. Jesus explained that was HARDER than what He's taught (19:11-12)
- III. What if you are ALREADY divorced?
- A. Acknowledge personal RESPONSIBILITY and confess any sin to GOD (Rom. 3:13, 23; Matt. 7:3-5; 1 John 1:9)
 - B. Strengthen your WALK with GOD (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:9-20)
 - C. PRAY FOR your estranged spouse (1 Cor. 7:13-16; 1 Pet. 3:1-2, 7-9)
 - D. Make the BEST of your PRESENT situation (1 Cor. 7:17-24; Phil. 4:11-13)
 - E. Serve the Lord WHOLEHEARTEDLY and JOYOUSLY (1 Cor. 10:31; Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12)