

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

--MARK 10:1-12--

INTRODUCTION:

Marriage used to be held in honor as a sacred covenant between a husband and wife that was blessed by God. Divorce on the other hand was not an option except in the worst of situations. But in this age of self-fulfillment and self-realization even the sacred institutions such as marriage are made conditional when one asks the question, “Am I getting fulfillment from this?” Then divorce for any reason becomes an option.

More important than self-fulfillment, or what some equate with their own happiness, is obedience to God’s Word. The true path to fulfillment is obedience: finding one’s life by losing it, being crucified with Christ, surrendering your life fully to the Lord. Our passage this morning is our Lord’s words concerning marriage and divorce.

I. THE SET-UP (Mark 10:1-2)

- a. Our passage begins in the _____ where Jesus was in Capernaum.
- b. The Pharisees came to test Him by asking whether it was lawful for a man to _____ a wife? (Matthew 19:3; Deuteronomy 24:1)
- c. To understand our Lord’s response, you must understand something about the heated _____ and theological context in which Jesus made His statements concerning marriage and divorce.
- d. It (Deuteronomy 24:1) taught that a man could divorce his wife if he found “some _____” in her.
- e. This was a huge issue in Jesus’ day and the _____ on which the controversy centered was what does “some indecency” mean?
- f. The Pharisees’ question to Jesus was to try and draw Him into this longstanding debate and then _____ His response to their own ends.

- g. Jesus did not begin by directly answering the Pharisees’ loaded question but instead took them back to the institution of _____ seen at creation (Matthew 19:1-12)

II. THE MARRIAGE COVENANT (Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9)

- a. In Matthew Jesus begins His response by directing the Pharisees back to the ideal instituted in the beginning when God first _____ man and woman.
- b. Jesus quoted from _____ to emphasize two things.
 1. First, the _____ of the marriage relationship: “the two shall become one flesh.”
 2. Second, Jesus’ emphasis was on _____.
- c. It should be noted as well that the fall did not change the _____. (Malachi 2:14-16a)

III. THE LAW (Matthew 19:7-9; Mark 10:3-5)

- a. The question the Pharisees posed at the beginning alluded to the _____ in Deuteronomy 24.
- b. The reason God allowed or permitted divorce was that the hearts of the men of Israel were _____.
- c. In the Matthew passage Jesus adds what has become known as the “_____ clause.”
- d. All these offenses were originally punishable by _____ under the Mosaic Law.
- e. Jesus said the only grounds by which one could divorce his or her spouse was sexual _____, an offense that was originally punished by death.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus response to the Pharisees and then later to the disciples completely did away with the loopholes that the Pharisees had tried to create in the Deuteronomy 24 passage. This teaching was revolutionary, it was radical. Jesus was clearly stating that if a person were seeking to live righteously then he must view his marital relationship as supremely sacred. Nothing can sever it but unrepentant unfaithfulness.