



Living the Jesus Way

Session 5: How to view Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 5:27-30: 19:3-12

³¹ 'It has been said, "Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce."³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?'

⁴ 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female,"⁵ and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"⁶? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

⁷ 'Why then,' they asked, 'did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?'

⁸ Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.'

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, 'If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.'

¹¹ Jesus replied, 'Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others – and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.'

Class Notes:

Introduction: A Big Problem

1. Choose Wisely

- Consider Carefully
- Pre-marital Counseling

2. Invest Massively

- 4 Facts from Jesus
- The Nature of Living Things
- The Power of Jesus

3. Concede Reluctantly

- The biblical precedence for divorce
- Practical Steps

4. Rebuild Carefully

- Forgiveness and Grace
- If not when...

5. Embrace Unconditionally

- No Condemnation
- Ministers of Reconciliation

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are reasons that contribute the frequency of divorce in our society?
2. What are the four facts about marriage that Jesus provides in Matthew 19?
3. Why did the laws given by Moses allow for divorce?
4. What are situations, according to the Bible, where a Jesus follower is permitted to get remarried?
5. How should a church family come alongside a couple struggling in their marriage?
6. What are the most important steps we can take to avoid divorce?
7. What questions or concerns do you still have on the Christian understanding of marriage and divorce?