

Pr Mark Turner: What Jesus Taught about Marriage (11/5/19)

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 19:1-12

Introduction:

This message is related to both SS and the parenting seminar. Today we'll be looking at the critical dynamic of a husband-wife relationship.

Specifically, what Jesus taught about it, and how does He say we can please God through this God-given institution.

Marriage:

Matthew 19:1,2

Jesus, the passage tells us, had a large following.

They came for various reasons including: to see His healing, to see His teaching, to see His miracles and to test Him.

Matthew 19:3

This is an example of such a test.

They are trying to corner Him into taking a side with one faction over another.

There were various understandings of Old Testament passages such as Deuteronomy 24:1 and the interpretation of the words "some uncleanness."

What did this mean?

The liberals focussed on the words 'finds no favour in his eyes' - meaning whatever he wanted it to mean.

The conservatives focussed on the words 'uncleanness' as meaning 'immorality' (adultery).

So, when they came to Jesus with this question, they were seeking to cause division through the words of their own prophet Moses.

They asked Jesus a question about divorce and He gave them an answer about marriage.

He was saying that they needed to zoom out and look at God's original purpose for marriage - which will then inform the details.

Jesus' Points:

1. Marriage is a God-given ordinance (vs 4,5).
2. Marriage is an ordinance between the sexes (vs 4).
3. Marriage is intended to be permanent! (vs 6).
4. Marriage is exclusive (vs 5,6).
5. Marriage creates a nuclear family unit (vs 5).

In these five points, Jesus affirms God's original intention.

Divorce:

'So,' they ask Him, 'Why then did Moses command divorce?'

Jesus' answer:

1. Divorce was not part of God's original design for marriage.
2. Divorce was permitted by Moses, not commanded!
3. Divorce was permitted because of the hardness of their hearts.
 - "Divorce is the result of a breakdown of relationship (hardness of heart)." Mark Turner
4. Divorce laws were designed to protect women.
 - "Divorce, adultery, remarriage - none of these are the unpardonable sin." Mark Turner

Celibacy:

'So,' the disciples ask, 'isn't it better not to get married at all if it is so hard to get out of marriage?

Jesus acknowledges that marriage is not for everyone.

1. Some people do not marry because they were born with no desire for marriage.
2. Others do not marry because they are castrated.
3. Still others voluntarily forgo marriage for the sake of serving God.
 - o For example: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Conclusion:

"Marriage is not the goal - pleasing God is!" Mark Turner

- Hebrews 11:5 - Enoch lived to please God and he was translated.
- Ephesians 5:10 - Paul counsels the church in Ephesus to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- Find out what is pleasing to the Lord as a marriage, divorce, single, re-married.

Give God all of you - now, later, forever!