



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King loves Marriage!

Matthew 19:1-12

Message #53 of 80 – S1086

Sermon given on February 25, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King loves Marriage!

Matthew 19:1-12

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 19**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King loves Marriage!**
- Our text for today begins with Jesus helping people.
- **Matthew 19:1-2**
- This marks the end of Jesus' Galilean ministry.
- From here on He is headed to Jerusalem and His appointment on the cross.
- This is a consistent theme in Christ's ministry – people needed healing and Jesus healed them.
- What follows seems to be a common theme also.
- **Matthew 19:3**
- Wherever the power of God was manifesting, someone was standing up to resist it.
- In the same way Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden and Jesus in the wilderness, these guys slither up to Jesus to try to get Him to say something they can accuse Him of.
- Why did they believe they could trap Jesus with this question?
- It is because there were different opinions and beliefs regarding marriage in the culture and in the religious establishment.
- They were trying to see which group Jesus would align Himself with on this topic.
- The question they are asking Jesus is based on the reality that some in the culture and religious establishment taught that a man could divorce his wife for almost any reason.
- The sanctity of marriage has been under attack for a long time.

- Satan knows that if he can corrupt the concept of marriage, he can hinder mar the image of God's creation.
- Jesus responds with a question of His own.
- **Matthew 19:4-6**
- The Pharisees are referring to something Moses said in Deuteronomy.
- Jesus takes them back to the Creation account, quoting from Genesis 1 and 2.
- Everything about verses 5 and 6 speaks of unity.
- Marriage is a picture of the unity of God.
- Just as the Trinity of three persons in One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, marriage is a tri-unity of three persons man, woman, and God.
- And just as the unity of God cannot be broken, the unity of marriage should not be broken.
- Marriage is a covenant relationship between God and a man and a woman for life.
- Turn to **Genesis 15**
- Once a covenant is established by God, only God can annul it.
- God takes these covenants seriously.
- That is symbolized the description of the covenant God made with Abraham.
- **Genesis 15:7-10; 17-21**
- By passing through the sacrifices God was saying that should He violate the covenant that He should be cut in two like the sacrifices.
- God cannot break the covenant; therefore, the promises are certain.
- Turn back to **Matthew 19**
- When a couple enters the covenant of marriage, they are making a vow to God that He takes very seriously and only death should break that vow.
- We live in a culture that doesn't really believe that.
- And just like the Jews during the time of Moses, God's people have been influenced by the culture.
- Many people object to the things we will say here this morning regarding marriage and divorce.

- We may not like what God's Word says, but if we claim to be God's people, we need to be willing to accept it.
- Marriage is not a human creation. It is God-ordained.
- And because we believe God is sovereign, we believe that when two people come together in marriage that God is involved.
- This is even true when unbelievers marry.
- In the creation God made man and woman and blessed them and then gave them a mission (**Genesis 1:27-28a**).

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..."

- God created man and woman to be the objects of His love and grace and to worship Him and Him alone.
- When God told them to be fruitful and multiply, He expected them to procreate and fill the earth with God-worshippers that He could love through His grace.
- Turn to **Malachi 2**
- To break this covenant with God exposes them to the consequences of being out of God's will.
- The people of Malachi's time were experiencing those consequences.
- **Malachi 2:13-15**
- God's ways are the only right ways.
- Keep your finger in Malachi and turn back to **Matthew 19**
- The Pharisees are ready with another test for Jesus.
- **Matthew 19:7-8**
- What is hardness of heart?
- Another word that might be used is 'unfeelingness'.
- To be hard of heart is to be unfeeling toward someone or something.
- In the case of marriage, to be hard of heart is to be unfeeling to your spouse and unfeeling about God's will for your marriage.
- Turn back to **Malachi 2**
- God has made His feelings clear on the topic of divorce.
- **Malachi 2:16**
- To seek a divorce, knowing how God feels about divorce is a sign of a hard heart – a heart unfeeling toward God.

- Turn back to **Matthew 19**
- If you take away hard-heartedness, you take away divorce.
- **Matthew 19:9**
- God's will is not divorce – it is oneness.
- This text on marriage follows chapter 18 for a reason.
- Matthew 18:15-18 teaches us the doctrine of reconciliation.
- God is seeking unity in the body of Christ, and in our marriages and family.
- Before divorce, every effort should be made to reconcile.
- And then the rest of chapter 18 teaches us the importance of forgiveness.
- Almost all divorces could be prevented if people would just repent of their sins to one another and practice forgiveness.
- Chapter 18 begins with a warning about causing one of Christ's little ones to stumble into sin.
- The literal interpretation of 'little ones' is children.
- It is always the children who suffer most when two people divorce.
- 'Little ones' can also be interpreted to be believers who are weak or immature in their faith.
- When two people divorce they are not the only ones who are affected.
- It can damage or wreck the faith of those who are not spiritually mature enough to handle it.
- An exception is given for sexual immorality.
- While an exception is allowed that doesn't mean it is required.
- Reconciliation and forgiveness is always possible.
- Whatever is going on in the relationship, Matthew 18 must be applied before divorce is to be considered.
- Marriage is hard.
- It is two sinners living in close proximity with one another.
- And if they have children, they are adding more sinners to the equation.
- Marriage is hard but God loves marriage.

- When two people humble their heart before God and each other, God can help them through the hard parts of marriage and cause His glory to shine forth to the whole world.
- God has given us the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and the church family to help us through the hard times.
- When we allow them to help us do the hard work of reconciliation and practice forgiveness, the world witnesses the power of God at work.
- The disciples are not really sure what to make of what Jesus just said.
- **Matthew 19:10**
- This was a thought born out of their Jewish culture.
- Jesus just said that a man shouldn't divorce his wife for any reason.
- Their response is to say, 'Then it is better not to marry rather than risk being in a marriage where you are not happy.'
- **Matthew 19:11-12**
- When God created men and women, He gave them physical desires for intimacy that foster unity in marriage and result in procreation.
- A covenant marriage is the only relationship where God allows those desires to be fulfilled.
- Intimacy outside of marriage is fornication – it is sin!
- For most people it is best if they marry so that they can enjoy those God-implanted desires in a way that glorifies God.
- Only those who have been called and equipped to singleness should consider it a calling from God.
- Marriage is good for most – singleness is good for some.
- Jesus draws their attention back to the main point.
- It is not about marriage or singleness – it is about the kingdom of heaven.
- Whether you are married or single, your greatest desire ought to be the kingdom of heaven.
- And whether God calls you to marriage or singleness it is so that He can use you to proclaim the kingdom of heaven to the lost people of this world.
- If you are married, your marriage can do that.
- If you are single, your singleness can do that.

- Whether married or single, do it for the Lord and His kingdom
(**Colossians 3:23-24**).

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- The worship team can start making their way up here. (**if time allows**)
- In conclusion, God loves marriage because it is a reflection of the unity of the Godhead.
- God hates divorce because it mars that image.
- As the church we choose to see these things from God's perspective and not from the perspective of our culture.
- God loves marriage and expects married people to honor the covenant they made and serve Him in their marriage.
- God loves single people and expects them to serve Him wherever He calls them.
- In the end it is all about loving God and following Jesus.
- Let's love Him right where we are!
- **Pray!**
- Worship Team plays the last song! (**if time allows**)