

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

GREAT MULTITUDES FOLLOWED HIM

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SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **Matthew 19:1-12**

Matthew 19:2, And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the March 25, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. **Verses 1-2:** Jesus re-enters Judea.
- b. **Verses 3-12:** Jesus restates God's ideal for marriage and grounds for divorce for believers.
- c. **Verses 13-15:** Jesus receives little children.
- d. **Verses 16-26:** Jesus reasons with the rich, young ruler.
- e. **Verses 27-30:** Jesus rewards the Apostles.
- f. We continue to see some movement in **Matthew** as Jesus re-enters Judea and moves to Jerusalem for the last time before His crucifixion.
- g. The Pharisees now come tempting Jesus with a problem they were debating and it continues to be debated today.
- h. Jesus' answer to their question dealt not only with divorce, but emphasized God's high ideal for the marriage relationships.
- i. It was God's original plan that there would be no divorce. Divorce is a direct result of sin in one's life. It was permitted under the Mosaic Law because of the hardness of man's heart. **Mark 10:4-5**, *And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 5: And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.*
- j. For believers, adultery (fornication) is the only basis for divorce. **Matthew 5:32**, *But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.* According to **1 Corinthians Chapter 7**, believers may separate on other grounds. **1 Corinthians 7:5**, *Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*
- k. Divorce was granted for the purpose of permitting the innocent party to remarry.
- l. I want to emphasize the rule Jesus is articulating applies to believers only. God is not regulating or attempting to regulate the lives of unbelievers.

- m. Unbelievers are held first to the message of the cross. Once they receive Jesus as personal Saviour, then all the other instructions God gives us as believers apply to them.
- n. Jesus prayed for the little children in this passage. It is very significant because children are the innocent victims of divorce.
- o. As a result, divorce should be considered as a last resort.
- p. The incident of the rich young ruler has been interpreted to mean that keeping the law and forsaking riches is essential to becoming a child of God.
- q. When we examine this under the microscope, it reveals the opposite is true.
- r. Jesus instructed the rich young ruler to come and follow Him.
- s. Jesus did not contradict him about his answer concerning the law. He only asked the rich young ruler to follow him.
- t. Jesus was on His way to the cross at that time. It was the rejection of Jesus that caused the rich young ruler to turn aside.
- u. Jesus concludes this Chapter emphasizing self-sacrifice as a basis for following Him. This is a solemn note for Christian living today. **Romans 12:1** says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
- v. We often emphasize what people get when they come to Christ, not what they must give up.
- w. I think we must emphasize that it is self-sacrifice when we come to Jesus because He owns it all. He owns us and everything we have. **2 Peter 3:18**, *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

3. NINE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. When Jesus had finished these sayings

1. **Matthew 19:1**, *And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;*
2. The Bible indicates Jesus finished what He wanted to say in Galilee and was now moving south toward his final destination which will be the cross to die for your sins and mine.
3. "*when Jesus had finished these sayings*" means what He had articulated in **Matthew Chapters 16-18**.
4. His movement south brought Him to the border of Judea beyond the Jordan, which means the east bank of the Jordan river.
5. In Caesarea Philippi Jesus indicated He was going to Jerusalem to die.
6. He now moves in that direction. He spends time around the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was His headquarters and He even crossed over into Gadara.
7. Now we see Him on the border of Judea.

b. Great multitudes followed him

1. **Matthew 19:2**, *And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.*
2. We find great multitudes followed Jesus and He healed them wherever He went.

3. Notice the word "*multitudes*" were healed by the Lord Jesus. It was not just a few isolated cases of people healed, but multitudes.
4. It is important for us to understand that the Lord Jesus is the Great Physician. This does not mean that we do not seek help from doctors who are trained in various infirmities.
5. We, as believers, need to be clear in our mind that Jesus is concerned about our infirmities. We need to channel our prayers to him as well. **3 John 2**, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

c. Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

1. **Matthew 19:3**, *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*
2. We see Jesus is confronted by the religious rulers who have a question about divorce.
3. Our Lord will state God's ideal for marriage and grounds for divorce for believers.
4. Our Bible says they were again tempting Him. We find there was always a hidden agenda from the Pharisees.
5. They were always trying to cause Jesus to be in opposition to the Mosaic Law.
6. The question they asked was, "*Is it lawful for man to put away his wife for every cause?*"
7. This is hotly debated among Christians today; however, the Preserved Word of God is extremely clear and plain on this subject, just as it is on any other subject that men and women debate. **Psalms 12:6-7**, *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
8. This has been heatedly debated in many Churches and has destroyed many people who would have and could have done a tremendous work for God.
9. I will now give you some background on marriage.
10. God gave marriage for the protection of the home.
11. Marriage is something God has given to be a blessing for mankind whether saved or unsaved.
12. He also gave capital punishment, which we debate today, for the protection of the nation and the lives of its citizens.
13. He gave the Sabbath to Israel, the law for the protection of the individuals that they might have one day of rest. God realizes the body needs to replenish itself.
14. I would caution every Pastor and Teacher and Servant of God, rest is an essential part of God's program for His servants.
15. These are laws that were given to mankind in order to protect every aspect of God's creation.
16. Having said that, let's look at the question concerning marriage.

d. Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female

1. **Matthew 19:4**, *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.*
2. As a result of the question being asked, the Lord Jesus takes the Pharisees back to the beginning.
3. Jesus articulates God's ideal for marriage.
4. He states that the Mosaic Law permitted divorce on a broad basis. **Deuteronomy 24:1**, *When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.*
5. As far as the Mosaic Law was concerned, a divorce was not as bad as a person being married to a stranger.
6. For instance, if the priest's daughter was married to a stranger, she was shut out from the Nation Israel.
7. In Israel, at the time of the Mosaic Law, divorce had gotten out of hand. Divorce was granted for the flimsiest reasons.
8. **The Lord Jesus is emphasizing that from the beginning this was not God's standards for marriage.**

e. Therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

1. **Matthew 19:5-6**, *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? **6:** Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*
2. **Deuteronomy 24:1-6**, *When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. **2:** And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. **3:** And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; **4:** her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*
3. We can see clearly that divorce was not in God's original plan for man and woman before sin entered the human family
4. Any divorce is always a result of some sin on the part of one or the other of the couple.
5. Regardless of what you may say, there is sin somewhere in the relationship which causes a divorce.
6. Many times couples want to blame each other, so our Lord took them to the original plan.

f. From the beginning it was not so.

1. **Matthew 19:7-8**, *They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? **8:** He saith unto them, Moses*

*because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but **from the beginning it was not so.***

2. Our Lord tells them that Moses permitted this because of the hardness of their heart.
3. Marriage was given to mankind and it is the most tender and sweetest human relationship that exists on the earth.
4. It is so precious that our Lord Jesus Christ likened it unto the marriage between Himself and the Church. **Ephesians 5:20-33**
5. Therefore believers can set the highest and holiest relationship that exists. There is blissful happiness when this happens.
6. A marriage is made in either heaven or hell.
7. When they are made in the wrong place, there is trouble from the very beginning, and if not from the beginning, it will soon ensue.
8. The Bible says it is because of the hardness of the human heart that God permitted divorce.
9. God is merciful and He is kind to us, but His ideal for marriage has never changed.
10. Let me articulate that ideal for a moment. One man for one woman for a lifetime.
11. At this time, let me try to straighten out a problem that exists even today. Divorce, adultery, murder, can all be forgiven just like any other sin. **Psalms 103:12**, *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.* **1 John 1:7**, *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
12. Today there is a lot of pride involved in this issue. Those who have never been divorced want to pride themselves as being a cut above those who may have been divorced. **Galatians 6:1**, *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such as one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*
13. It is a sin and there is no question about it, but it is not the unpardonable sin. It can be forgiven like everything else. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

g. Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery:

1. **Matthew 19:9**, *And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*
2. Our Lord now gives us the only grounds for divorce among believers.
3. I want to re-emphasize that this is God's standard for marriage. However, He is not regulating the lives of unbelievers.
4. They must come to the cross and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and God is holding them to that first.
5. Adultery breaks the marriage relationship and provides the only grounds for divorce.

6. As I indicated before, when we look at **1 Corinthians Chapter 7**, we find that believers can separate on other grounds, but divorce was permitted on one basis only, and that is adultery.
7. Divorce was granted to permit the innocent party to remarry.
8. God is holding the unbeliever to his message on the cross, His death, His burial and His resurrection.
9. A man is lost whether he is married, divorced or single. His/her lost condition makes no difference until he accepts Christ.
10. The important thing to note is the grounds for divorce for believers. He puts down one ground for divorce and that is the grounds of adultery.

h. If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

1. **Matthew 19:10**, *His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.*
2. The disciples have another question. *"If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."* I will refer you to what the Bible says in **Hebrews 13:4**, *"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed is undefiled but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*
3. The troubles in marriage can be easily avoided and corrected if we understand that it is a give and take proposition.
4. If we take respect and love for each other into a marriage, we find it works just like the relationship with Christ and the church as recorded for us in **Ephesians 5:31-32** and it says, *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."*

i. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

1. **Matthew 19:11-12**, *But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12: For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.*
2. I think our Lord is laying down a principle. Marriage may be for some, it might not be for others.
3. I know there is one religion that has made eunuchs of men.
4. In certain positions people are not to marry; however, I am not going to go further into this issue. I will leave God's Word as it is. The final Word from God is *"He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."*
5. From personal experience my mate is a big help to me in the ministry.
6. She provides vital input in various counseling sessions.
7. She is always there for me, and I thank God for directing us to each other.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My sinner friend, do you know Jesus as personal Saviour?
- b. Would you come to the side of the living Saviour today?
- c. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. **Revelation 22:17**, *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
- g. Would you come to the side of the living Saviour today and be saved.
- h. Please stand.

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