

What Jesus Says About Divorce

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, March 31, 2019; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – In light of our cultural confusion and the hardness of our own hearts, let us submit to God’s good and perfect design for our lives and treasure His glorious gift of marriage, knowing that it’s a glorious picture of the gospel.

I. Jesus’ Teaching on Divorce – Read Mark 10:1-12

- A. As you think about the context of Jesus’ interaction with the Pharisees, what do you think are some of the reasons why they ask Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”
- B. According to Jesus, why did Moses allow a certificate of Divorce in Deut. 24:1-4? As you think about the potential exploitation of women, how does that fit with the context of Mark 8-10?
- C. As you think about verses 6-9, what do you learn about God’s glorious design of marriage? What adjectives would you use to describe the explanation given by Jesus?
- D. What’s the connection between divorce and adultery in verses 10-12?

II. Bible’s Teaching on Divorce – Read Matthew 19:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

- A. What is different about the interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees in Matt. 19:1-9? What’s the exception for divorce according to Matthew 19:9 and Matthew 5:31-31?
- B. After reading 1 Cor. 7:10-16, what additional exception is given regarding divorce?
- C. According to Eph. 5:22-33, how is marriage supposed to be a glorious picture of the gospel?
- D. How does Christ’s unwavering love, sacrifice, and commitment to the Church motivate you to promote healthy marriages in the church? As you think about the different roles in marriage for the husband and the wife, how would you like to grow in your potential or respective role?

III. Believer’s Response to Divorce – Application

- A. How was the sermon on marriage and divorce helpful to you in particular? Was there any relationship or sin issue in particular that you needed to repent of or think through?
- B. In what ways would you like to see your marriage or marriages in general move forward so that they’re an even clearer, God-exalting, God-glorifying, picture of the gospel?
- C. How can you grow in standing up for, protecting, and defending the sanctity of marriage?