

Sermon Questions

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

March 10:10-11

Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- Do you feel the view on divorce has changed for better or worse in recent decades?
- Did you listen to last week's sermon on marriage and divorce? If not, please do!

GROW:

- For context, read Mark 10:1-9. What was the reason that was given for allowing divorce? (verse 5)
- How does this differ from God's plan for marriage?
- Read Mark 10:10-11 (today's text). Based on our previous passage talking about a possible hardness of heart, coupled with these words from Jesus, what does this tell you about God's view of divorce?
- We are reminded in our sermon that we may have gone through a divorce in the past. Is it difficult to receive grace for past situations? Why or why not?
- We are reminded that this is not Jesus' only teaching on divorce. Read Matthew 5:32. What is listed as an exception (or biblically-permissible) reason for divorce? Why is this singled out as opposed to what Moses allowed?

GO:

- Do you have a history of divorce in your past? Spend time this week asking God for forgiveness (if appropriate). Remember that true repentance brings freedom!

Do you know someone else who may be struggling with feelings of guilt due to past divorce? How

Sermon Notes

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1. Marriage is a beautiful institution originated by God from the beginning (Genesis 2:18-25). God created marriage, He loves marriage, and His desire is for lifetime commitments, between husbands and wives. Divorce leads to “**violence**” against people whom He dearly loves (Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:16)
2. God desires us to remain in, work at, and be devoted to one's present marriage. If one's past needs to be confessed before God, do it (1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:12). One's past, including divorce, is not a scarlet letter. Indeed, all of us are sinners (in different areas), and we all need to confess, repent, and bask in God's forgiveness, mercy and grace. Philippians 3:13-14 reads (ESV): “**Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it (perfection) my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**”
3. Because we are sinful, God offers the concession of divorce when one's spouse is adulterous (porneia, Matthew 5:31-32) or abandons the marriage (chorizetai, 1 Corinthians 7:15). Along with many scholars, I also believe that abandonment includes physical abuse. God's heart, in offering the concession of divorce, is always to protect innocent spouses (and at-home children)
4. God blesses remarriage when: a person's spouse dies (1 Timothy 5:14; Romans 7:3; 1 Corinthians 7:39); one's former spouse is guilty of physical immorality--porneia (Matthew 5:32); one's former spouse abandons the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:15); one's former spouse is abusive (1 Corinthians 7:15); one has become a believer after one's divorce with no hope of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17); or having suffered a divorce, one's former spouse has remarried with no possibility of remarriage
5. (And) although this message did not cover this topic, God's clear will is for Christians, who are presently single, but who desire to be married, to wait for a committed Christian to marry. Believers marrying unbelievers is outside of God's will (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

Next week's text: Mark 9:42-48

