

Biblical Marriage, Divorce, & Singleness—Part 1

Matthew 19:1-12

I. The Setting:

- a. The debate about divorce revolved around the interpretation of Deut. 24:1-4
 - i. Rabbi Shammai believed that it was only possible in cases of adultery (*some indecency in her*)
 - ii. Rabbi Hillel believed that it was possible for just about anything (*finds no favor in his eyes*)
- b. **When Jesus had finished these words**, marked the end of Jesus' Church Discourse (cf. Matt. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 26:1)
- c. Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem through **Judea beyond the Jordan** which was actually Perea under King Herod Antipas (cf. John 2:13-25; 5:1-47; 7:1-10:39)
- d. He probably took this route because it was the most popular one with the Jews **and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there**

II. The Pharisees First Question:

- a. **test** = *peirazo* (πειράζω) = "to test, to tempt, to trap" (cf. Matt. 4:1, 3; 16:1; 22:18, 35)
- b. 4 Reasons why they asked this question on Divorce:
 - i. It would discredit Jesus in the eyes of at least half of the crowds
 - ii. It could make it look like He was against Moses
 - iii. Knowing Jesus view from the Sermon on the Mount, it would set the majority of the men against Him
 - iv. Since they were in Perea ruled by Herod Antipas who had beheaded John the Baptist, it might lead to Jesus' arrest and execution

III. Jesus' Answer on Marriage:

- a. Jesus takes us to where every discussion of Divorce must begin; God's Biblical Principles on Marriage:
 - i. Marriage is a _____
 - 1. ***He who created them from the beginning***
 - ii. Marriage is ONLY _____
 - 1. ***MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE***
 - iii. Marriage is a _____
 - 1. Final & Complete—***a man shall leave his father and mother***
 - 2. God does it—***joined to his wife***
 - 3. It is both physical & spiritual—***and the two shall become one flesh'***
 - a. Physical = sexual intimacy (cf. 1 Cor. 7:4)
 - b. Spiritual = one heart & mind united in Christ (cf. Eph. 5:22-33)
 - iv. Marriage was _____
 - 1. It is God's Divine Creation—***What therefore God has joined together***