

Title: What Jesus said about Marriage

FATHERS DAY

Text: Matthew 19:1-12

Open your Bibles, please, to Matthew chapter 19. Now, today is Father's Day. And I want to speak on the topic: WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT MARRIAGE!

Now, my wife is here. So, I realize that I must be honest and truthfull. And I promised her that I would not tell any false stories.

O.K. whether you are a newly wed, or, you have been married for years, we all need to learn about marriage. You are never to old to learn. Also, it is very important that we understand what the Bible teaches about marriage. I know that you can go to any book of psychology and learn about marriage. You can go to any marriage councilor and learn about marriage. But, I believe with all my heart that the greatest principles about marriage are in God's Word. And I believe the real secret to a lasting marriage is following these principle found in the Word of God. I, also, believe that if you violate any of these principles you will have nothing but unhappiness in your marriage. So, we are going to look at marriage from God's viewpoint.

Matthew chapter 19 beginning with Vs 1....(Read Vs 1-12)

Let's look to the lord in a moment of Prayer

Now, the Pharisees were the ones who ask the question which brought forth this teaching by Jesus on marriage. The Bible, also, says in Vs 3 that they were testing Him. They presented Him with a problem which came out-off O.T. law. In Vs 3 they ask Jesus: IS IT LAWFUL FOR A MAN TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE FOR ANY CAUSE AT ALL?"

Now, when Jesus gave the answer He outlined the principles of marriage. And I find at least five principles from the remarks of Jesus.

(1) Now, in answeing this question, Jesus immidately refers them back to God's plan for marriage. He starts at the beginning. He says in Vs 4.."HAVE YOU NOT READ, THAT HE WHO CREATED THEM FROM THE BEGINNING MADE THEM MALE AND FELMALE."

Now, what Jesus is referring to is found in Genesis chapter 1. In Genesis chapter 1 verse 27 we read: "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

That is what Jesus is referring to when He said..Vs 4...HAVE YOU NOT READ, THAT HE WHO CREATED THEM FROM THE BEGINNING MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.

God when he created human beings created male and female.

Thus, the first principle of marriage is this: The creation of marriage WAS BY GOD. God created marriage. It is not something that man developed. It is not a civil ceremony that man designed. GOD CREATED MARRIAGE. And God intended man and woman to be married. Now, God has a plan and purpose for single folks. I will deal with that issue at another time. But, MARRIAGE WAS CREATED BY GOD.

And what Jesus is referring to is this: He which made them..human beings.. at the beginning...made them male and female. In other words, it was the original intention of God when created man to also create woman. He created male and female/ It was God's intention that man and woman be married and enjoy the marriage relationship.

Now, God could have designed just the man. I don't want to belabor the point. But, I think it is very important, especially in light of what many folks are saying about the homosexual issue. God could have just created man. He could have had all men. And no need for marriage. And he could have developed this man with a free moral will. The will to choose or reject Him. The will to love or not love God. You see, God could have gotten His love and fellowship apart from any design of woman what soever. God could have done that if He wanted to. But, God did not do that. He designed Male and Female to be together in a marriage relationship.

And dear folks you will only find the joy of your life in knowing why God designed you in the first place. It was God's original intention to create a man and a woman. And for them to be married.

So, in understanding God's principles of marriage, we must start here. Marriage was created by God for man and woman.

(2) Now, principle number two. In Matthew 19, verse 4, Jesus says that we should have read this in Genes chapter 1. We should not only have read Vs 27, but also Vs 28. Because Vs 28 is the conclusion to the whole matter. Vs 28 says "AND GOD BLESSED THEM:"...male and female mentioned in Vs 27..."AND GOD SAID TO THEM, BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY, AND FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT."

THUS, PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO ABOUT MARRIAGE: ACCORDING TO GOD"S PLAN MARRIAGE INCLUDED HAVING CHILDREN. Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. And I often tell couples that I have counseld that the book of Psalms tells us that children are like arrows. "And blessed is the man that has his quiver full of them."

How many that is I am not going to say.

But children are like arrows and blessed is the man that has his quiver full of them. It was God's original intention that marriage involves the conception of children.

(3) Third, according to Jesus in Matthew 19 verse 5 "for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife."

Now, look at Genesis chapter 2. Genesis chapter 2 verse 18. Here we learn the third principle of marriage. Vs 18 says: "Then the Lord God said, It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." "SUITABLE" or "perfectly designed for him." "And it is not good that man should be alone."

And the summation of this whole argument as he goes on to describe the creation of woman is in Vs 24: "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife."

Thus, the third principle of marriage is companionship. It is not good that man be alone. I will make him a helper "perfectly designed" for him. And that is the reason why a man should leave his Father and his mother and cleave to his wife. That they might know and enjoy this companionship which God designed and intended for marriage....COMPANIONSHIP...

And yet, many of know that two people can live in the same house and be very much alone in their own heart....

A husband and wife can live under the same roof and yet, be very much alone.....

But, the principle is that it is not good that anyone live alone. And that is why God designed marriage for companionship.

I would like to say something here sort off in addition to what the Bible is saying. But I believe it needs to be said. The Bible's definition of "companionship" doesnot necessarily mean "compatibility" as the world thinks about it. The world teaches that if a person has all the likes you have and all the ~~dis~~ dislikes you have. And you put the two together they will be happy. And that is not God's standard for the home...

Now, I believe you ought to be as compatible as possible. ~~When~~ Especially when you are going to get married. Have you ever looked closely at the marriages in the Bible?..Often, God puts separate personalities together. He put different kinds of people together in the Bible. And I do not believe that the companionship that God is talking about is compatibility. In fact if ~~two~~ people are enjoying the companionship of the Bible they will learn to do things that they formerly did not like to do. Simple because they are with and doing it with the other person....

Now, there is one thing that I don't like to do. And that is to go shopping. I just can't stand to do that. And especially when my wife is going to buy a dress. You know, I will never understand why when you go to buy a dress you must try on every dress in the store before you buy one. And I don't like to go shopping. I get nervous and there is nothing to do. I feel like taking my books along and doing some writing or something. And it bothers me.

But, do you know something? You learn to like it because of the person that you are with....COMPANIONSHIP....Being together is very important. It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a helper perfectly designed for ~~his~~ his every need.

And, also, don't miss that word "Cleave"...~~C~~leave to his wife." There is a responsibility on the part of the husband to get this process of companionship going. He is to cleave to his wife. Very important. Leave Father and mother....The relatives have no business in this ~~new~~ family unit. "CLEAVE" to the wife. Husband, ~~man in that home~~, it is your responsibility to start God's standard for the home.....CLEAVE TO YOUR WIFE.....It is the man's responsibility to start and maintain the whole process of companionship of the two people together.

Now, fourth, in Matthew 19 we learn that when the two cleave together they shall be one flesh. In Vs 5 and 6 it says the two shall become one flesh.....This is not a spiritual term. It is ~~talking about the~~ ^{a physical term.} ~~body~~....
And it is not referring to children

O.K. what does this mean? Come back to Genesis chapter 2. In Genesis 2 verse 24 we read this: (Read Vs 23-25).... *called marriage*

In other words, the character of this union is being described as "one flesh." This is a Bible principle about marriage. And that foundational principle is ~~also~~ also the bases of the problems relating to divorce and remarriage. Everything is related and Jesus is going to show that in just a moment. But, you must understand the Bible principle. And that is: they two are one flesh....One flesh....That is how God treats ~~it~~ *many*. That is the character of the union of two people.

~~God~~ does not look at your marriage in terms of two *people*. But only as one flesh. That is basic~~ly~~, above everything else, a physical term. Don't run away from it. Don't hide from it. It is a physical term.

Now, to emphasize it, turn over to Ephesians...The book of Ephesians in the N.T. Ephesians chapter 5.....And let's begin with Vs 28...We read: "So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies."

Did you read that carefully. "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies." It is interesting the two fold standard God has for a man's love. I notice, for example, up in Vs 23 "the husband is the head of the wife."

Vs 25.."Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church."

Vs 28.."So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies."

You have two causes here as to how men ought to love. Love as Christ loved. Love as you love your own bodies. Two standards. The divine and the human....Two aspects of the same love.....(READ Vs 28-30)

So, in God's eyes...When God looks at this union, he sees it as one. A physical union. He sees it as one flesh. And that is a foundational principle which will effect your viewpoints about ~~some~~ *many* other things regarding marriage....

(5) Now, back to Matthew 19 again. *Jesus* ~~he~~ also said, in Vs 6, "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." And here we have the principle of the continuing bond. *The fourth principle of marriage*

Marry

What God has joined together, let no man separate. It is a continuing bond in God's eyes. It is indicated by the little phrase "joined together."

Now, I would like you to notice a very interesting usage of this same word: "joined-together." Turn in your Bibles, please, to 2 Corinthians chapter 6. 2 Corinthians chapter 6. And notice vs 14. Here we have the same word in the original language as we find in Matthew 19 when Jesus said: "joined-together." In 2 Corinthians 6:14 we read: "Do not be bound together with unbelievers." "BOUND TOGETHER" is the same word "Joined-together"... The basic interpretation of 2 Corinthians 6:14 is dealing with marriage. Nothing else....In application it might refer to other things. But the basic interpretation is marriage. God tells us never to marry unbelievers, if we are a christian. That is exactly what God tells us. "DO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.".....

And this is the same word as found in Matthew 19. What God has joined or bound together, let no man separate. We have no right to break the continuing bond. THAT IS A BASIC FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE. *of marriage*

(2)

Now, come back to Matthew 19. I know that many of you right now, and I can tell by the looks on your faces, have a dozen reason to change what I have already said. And you want to add to it certain opinions and prejudices you might have. *Adm. OK. The Pharisees, also had questions* So let see. So did they. "THEY" is the Pharisees Vs 7 "They said to him. Why did Moses then." From what you just said, and obviously from what he said because he indicated a continuing bond. He said this union is final. It is one flesh.

~~Alright~~ Alright, "Why did Moses command to give her a certificate and divorce her?".....That is a good question.....Why did Moses allow for divorce if you say, Jesus, that marriage is permanent. That there is one bond, there is one flesh. And what God has joined together don't let any *one* ~~man~~ separate. WHY DID MOSES DO IT?..... *Well* THEN HERE IS THE ANSWER OF JESUS...

Vs 8 ..."He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted."

Now, notice, Jesus changed their word. They said "commanded". Jesus changed it to "permitted."

God never commanded people to divorce. He never has. God permitted it. Moses did not command people to divorce one another. What was commanded was?...IF GOD PERMITTED A DIVORCE, THEN THEY WERE COMMANDED TO GIVE AN OFFICAL WIRTTEN CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCEMENT. In other words, to make it legal. That no man just had a right to run off.

So, ^{God} permitted divorce. He did not command it, God never in his word has commanded divorce. ^{But} He permitted ~~divorce~~ ^{divorce}

The reason given is: the hardness of your hearts. Now, the word

"hardness" is interesting. It comes from two words. One maening "heart". And the other meaning "subborn", or "stuff-necked"... ^{and subbornness is one of the sins that God HATES}

So, if you would like a very common translataion as used in the Bible of that word, you would translated this way. "MOSES BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE SUBBORN PERMITTED YOU TO DIVORCE YOUR WIFE. Because of the subbornness of people. And we are all like that, arn't we?"

Let's look at what Moses said. Turn to Deuteronomy, in the O.T., Deuteronomy chapter 24. Deuteronomy chapter 24 beginning at Vs 1....
(Read 24:1-4)

Now, please notice in Vs 1 that it says that when a man sees that his wife finds no favor in his eyes. AND RIGHT THERE MANY PEOPLE HAS STOPPED.... But notice that the next word following "eyes" is the word "because"... The real situation here is because of some kind of indecency. It is literally trnaslated "a matter of nakedness"...Outright immorality....

But, most people stop reading to soon. And they take it to mean that if a man didn't particularly care for his wife, if he didm't think she was beautiful enought and saw another one who was a little bit pretter, could divorce.....

And you see, the Pharisees are testing Jesus. They knew the opinions of their day in this regards. So, Jesus is teaching exactly what the O.T. law said. The real background in this is immorality in her.

Now, knowing that come back to Matthew 19.....Jesus said in Vs 8 that Moses permitted divorce because of the subbornness of your hearts. But notice, ^{Vs 8} "FROM THE BEGINNING IT HAS NOT BEEN THIS WAY."

God's foundational principle of marriage is what God has joined together let not ~~men~~ ^{one} separate. It is not God's will to have a divorce.

But, it is very obvious that God has a permissive will. He has permitted and allowed this in the Bible

~~also~~, notice Vs 9....In Vs 9 Jesus gives us the one restriction to the Mosaic law. He tells us what Deut. really says. Vs 9: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another commits adultery. And he who marries a divorced woman, ^{that} that is one who was divorced because she committed immorality,...And he who marries that kind of woman commits adultery."

That is what Moses is saying. The uncleanness of Moses' day is interpreted by Jesus to mean: ^k "fornication." Now, the word "fornication" is a word which means all kinds of ^{sexual} immorality. It is translated that way many times in the N.T. For example the word means more than adultery. Or, as in this case, it can refer to adultery.

So, this is one of ^{three} Biblical grounds for divorce. Yet, remember it is only because of the hardness of their stubborn hearts....

Now, ^{Friend} ~~folks~~ we must be very honest. We live in a day in which we are suffering from the very same problems that existed in the N.T. Divorce and immorality and fornication was running out of control. They were ~~in~~ in the church at Corinth. They were in the days of Jesus. And it is facing us today. ^{But} ~~And~~ again remember, it is not God's direct will for a couple ever to divorce. But in the case of immorality, Jesus said that divorce is permitted. It is permitted. Divorce is allowed because of fornication.

And remarriage is also allowed. If there is Biblical grounds for divorce, there is Biblical grounds for remarriage. The Bible teaches that.

Now, I am not teaching the other Biblical grounds for divorce ^{Today} ~~taught~~, But I will share ^{Reasons} ~~them~~ with you. I Corinthians chapter 7 talks about ^{one} ~~two~~ other reason for divorce. ^{and that is} one, the willing departure of an unbelieving spouse. ~~And~~ immorality and the willing departure of an unbelieving spouse are the only two Biblical reasons for divorce. Bible grants for remarriage.

and Divorce is permitted

Now, third, according to Jesus beginning in Vs 10 there is a real definite purpose in Marriage, and why the union must be continued. And fornication is the only reason for breaking it. Look at Vs 10 (read)

Well, Jesus, if what you just said is true, then maybe it would be better not to marry? If we are going to run into this situation, why marry?

Vs 11 Jesus said (Read Vs 11)

Now, does that mean that some of us are intelligent enough to receive it and some are not?.....NO.....

This is a very unusual word for "receive". It does not mean to accept as true....It is a very particular Greek word. It means "to 'have space in one's nature for something". Like: a vessel holding so much water...

THE POINT IS: That some ~~man~~ ^{man} can live as a single person. They have the ability in their nature to have this singleness in their life. And they give the illustration of Eunuchs. Eunuchs are ^{NOT} born. Eunuchs are made of men. Eunuchs that make themselves for the kingdom of heavens sake. Some people who decide to be permanently single....WHY?....SO THEY CAN DO THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN....

Paul teaches in I Corinthians 7 that if it is for a spiritual reason in the work of the lord it maybe better to remain single. Paul said that he wished that many would remain just like he is. He was single when he wrote I Corinthians. To remain single you would be much more effective in the service of the Lord, in certain cases, under certain circumstances. And especially in the days of our Lord. It was very dangerous to take a wife with you, if you were doing missionary work in the Roman empire..

So, the point is: some can receive this. And the Greek word means: "TO HAVE SPACE IN ONE'S NATURE FOR IT".

Now, notice the last phrase of Vs 12. This is a key phrase. Jesus said "he who is able to accept this, let him accept it." Again: to have something in your nature to accept singleness. If you are able.

And notice, Jesus clearly teaches that if you are not able the reverse is true. You had better get married.

I would like you to turn over to 1 Corinthians 7 for a confirmation of that. 1 Corinthians chapter 7. 1 Corinthians 7 and verse 8 and 9 (read) The word 'burn' is not talking about the final judgement. It means to be consumed with passion. It is better to be married than to be frustrated the rest of your life. You have not the ability to remain single. It is not in your nature.

Now, this is very important because inherent in this discussion of Jesus to his disciples, and also by Paul in 1 Corinthians 7, is this principle: THAT THE ^{PURPOSE} ~~PRINCIPLE~~ OF MARRIAGE is the control of what God created us with and that is sexual desires. Now, listen, carefully, young person and adult, anything outside of God's marital bond that he has set up is definitely sin against God. I don't care how you describe it. God has his standard for marriage. And the purpose for having your own wife or husband according to God is to avoid fornication. Have you read it carefully. 1 Corinthians chapter 7 verse 2: "But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." Vs 3: "Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and like wise also the wife to her husband." And Paul is talking about the control of your sexual desires.

and

Now, God has created us with this. And it is to be enjoyed. They shall be one flesh. It is the zenith point in God's viewpoint of marriage. But, it is only an outward expression of the love that is in your heart. And love is basic a mental attitude far before it is an outward act. But, any violation of God's standard of this marital bond is only sin. And it will drive you to unhappiness in the long run.

The purpose of marriage is a control of sexual desires. God meant it to be so. That is why he wants a woman to be with a man. And a man to be with a woman.

(2) O.K. ~~finally~~, what is the ^{Purpose} point, according to God's word, ^{For} about marriage. Why does God have marriage? What is the ^{Fundamental} ~~background~~ purpose? We see this purpose as far as we are concerned, ^{in these words} But isn't there something back in the background? Isn't there some deep point that God is trying to illustrate? YES, THERE IS. AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME TO EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5....

In'back of all that we have discussed, ^{Today} tonight, from the beginning when God created marriage, he had a point in mind that he ~~drove~~ ^{was moving toward} to. A definite point in mind. AND WHAT IS IT? I believe you will be thrilled with this. Ephesians chapter 5 verse 31 and 32.....

Paul says in Vs 31 "For this cause a man shall leave his Father and Mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great.".....Like the fellow said: "you telling me, man I am married.".....THIS MYSTERY IS GREAT.....

What kind of mystery? A mystery is not something that no one can understand. A mystery is something that was previously hidden, not know, but now revealed. And here it is.........Here is the ultimate point behind this great physical union that God has created between a man and a woman. ^{Here} ~~What~~ IS HIS UNTIMATE POINT? ~~.....~~

Vs 32 "I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Christ and his union ~~with~~ with the believer in the body of Christ is the ultimate point and the reason why God established the physical union of marriage. Why he brought a man and woman together to provided the most wonderful illustration ^{we have} ~~man has~~ ever received of what it is like when Jesus comes into union with the believer and ^{Forms} ~~with~~ the body of Christ.

Now, obviosuely, a lot of us the way we live in our homes aren't very good illustrations, are we?.....

^{But regardless the} The union of man and woman is the illustration that God intended to represent the relationship of a believer with his Lord. WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER LET NO MAN SEPARATE. | The finality of this. The continuing bond of this. You can see many wonderful precious illustrations of this. You have become one in Christ. And it is not me trying to wholed onto Christ. Christ is wholeding on to me. He has made me one with himself. I am now in his body and I can never be separated from that body. Many, many wonderful illustratons. We have been made one with christ.

~~I~~ I want to wrape this up by saying this. I don't know what it is like in your home and in your situation. You may have individual problems relating to things we have said ^{today} ~~tonight~~.

But I know this. In the Bible there are ^{Three} ~~two~~ words for love. One is call "philito". From this word we get our word "Philadelphia". That is two words meaning "brotherly love." ^{There is also the word EROS - which speaks of the love between a man and a wife}

Another ^{Third} word is "AGAPE". I am sure you have heard of that word... Agape... Now, some folks say that "Agape" is a higher form of love than Philoto". That is not true. Sometimes Philo is used in a stronger way than Agape. You can't prove, really, which is greater. ^{But all Three} ~~Both of them~~ are to be evident in a christian home. But, there is one thing that you can prove from Agape. Agape doesn't have an original source in a human being when he is born into this world. No human being is ever born with Agape love. But you are born with philto ^{and even}

Now, Philto ^{is EROS one} ~~is~~ basical a physcial attraction for another person. It is a strong physical attranction. ^{Human Love}

^{Now's} ~~But~~, ~~now~~ Agape is not inherent in human nature. This Agape is the kind of love found for example in John 3:16. "For God so Agaped the world that He gave his only begotten son." You see, it was the love of God which gave His son. This Agape is in Ephesians 5 where it says "Husbands Agape your wives as Christ Agaped the church." LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED. ^{vs 21}

And yet, the Bible says that people do not have this ^{agape} love. I John clearly teaches us that this love, Agape, is OUT...OF..GOD. It is a part of God's essential nature. FOR GOD IS AGAPE.....God is more than Philo. He is Agape. That is His essential nature. It is a love that gives and does not expect anything in return. And only God has that love. ^{people are} ~~Man~~ is not born with it. ^{also,} ~~We do NOT Have it in this chritian nature~~

~~And the point that I am trying to make is this:~~ According to the Bible Agape is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love..Agape

Romans 5:5 "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is Agape not Philo. The Holy Spirit of God has as an essential part of his nature the fruit Agape. And he sheds it abroad in the life of the believer.

Now, here is my point. If you are having problems in your home, you can center it down to one issue.....

There will be no problems in any home when Agape is ruling. And Agape will be evident when both partners are under the control of the Holy Spirit. In fact, you can have a very serious situation in the home when you have a spiritual Christian attempting to love and relate to a Carnal Christian.

Dear friends, one does not have the capacity to give without the thought of receiving unless he or she is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, your only idea of love is selfish. It is self gradification. That which I receive.

Oh, listen dear friends, all of our problems would be solved if we would get our lives strightened out with the Lord. Thus, the problems in the home are spiritual problems. People, when they are living under the control of the Holy Spirit, can love...can forgive...as God wants them to love and forgive.

Let me tell you....it is so important to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I hope you are? And I hope your home, men, is a Christ Centered home where Agape...love is ruling your life.