

Jesus on Marriage & Divorce, Mark 10.1-12, pt.1, 3.12.17

Introduction

1. Talking with several couples who had been in tough places in their marriages and were either considering divorce or a stalemate, but they had moved through those difficult times and now live in such abundance and joy.
2. God is for your marriage and the world, the flesh and the devil are against it. Therefore, it takes consistent effort to have the kind of marriage that God wants for us.
3. Most people focus on the divorce side of this passage, but Jesus begins with focus on marriage. Next week, we will focus on divorce.

God's Design for Marriage – Mark 10.6-9

1. Marriage was God's idea and He decides how to define it. The state can define a contractual agreement between people, but when you add "holy" or "sacred" or "in the sight of God" to the contract then you need to know what He has to say about.
2. Male & female – separate genders reflecting the fullness of His nature. Just as there are physical differences between men and women there are also intellectual and emotional differences. Men – courage, protective, servant leadership; Women – nurturing, others focused, intuitive. Like the Trinity – men and women are of the same essence and nature (one is not superior than the other), but with different roles and traits. Equality with uniqueness.
3. Singularly – Jesus did not allow polygamy, open or child marriages.
4. Covenant – They are making a promise to both God and each other to remain united and not let anything separate them.
5. The question is where do you derive your values about marriage? How are your values shaped?
6. I want part of this article on the screen: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/life-in-a-foreign-country-navigating-our-cultures-change-on-sexuality>

God's Desire For Marriage

1. Marriage reflects His image – Gen.1.26-27

- a. **We are creators** – He created all that exists and we take those resources/elements (mind, abilities, relationships, procreativity, physical resources) and create.
 - i. Children, beautiful structures, food, experiences and land restoration projects, etc.
 - ii. WE are creative by nature b/c that's the way God is.
- b. *Bunny Trail: We have authority over the earth just as He has authority over the universe. We, not He, are responsible for what happens here. We are managers of His store, so to speak. How would he say we are doing? What does our store look like personally and internationally?*
 - i. *He can only intervene in the earth when He has agreement with a human. He had to have agreement with Abraham to establish His covenant; He had to have*

Moses to perform the mighty acts in Israel's deliverance; He needed Mary's cooperation for Jesus to be born. He didn't impose His will but He found agreement.

- ii. This is why it is critical we pray "your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Otherwise, He is limited. He's not just going to do something w/o agreement. This is why yieldedness to the Spirit at all times is so critical.
- iii. He's not going to force His will. Some are in relationships with people who are not cooperating with the HS and you want God to force them to submit. He can turn up the heat, but He will not force them out of the oven.

1. The rise of Hitler & Third Reich. Everyone knew Hitler was bad and Germany's nationalistic aspirations were cultic, but world leaders sat on their hands and did nothing. You can't blame God for responsibilities that He delegated to humanity.

- c. **We demonstrate the glory of God in our relationships – Ex.34.6-7:** love, patience, forgiveness, compassion, mercy and justice.

- i. The book & movie, The Shack, we see the love between God the Father, Son & HS. Their relationship is filled with love and joy. It's not a stale, hierarchical, mechanical relationship. It's not a business model with the Father the CEO: Jesus the VP of Public Affairs; Spirit the VP of HR.

- 1. The most powerful experiences of relational love that you have are but small reflections of the love They have for each other. Love isn't just a commodity. They give love, mercy, justice and forgiveness to mankind, b/c it is essence of who They are.

- 2. The joy you experience when your child succeeds is how they feel all the time.

- ii. There maybe nothing in this life that is a better witness for Jesus than a couple who truly love one another. Miracles and great works in the name of Jesus – schools, hospitals, mercy ministries – are awesome, but a group of married believers whose lives truly reflect the glory of God have a greater, long term impact than a powerful miracle or a great ministry, b/c it is exponential.

- iii. Do whatever it takes to have the best marriage possible.

2. Marriage produces a godly offspring – Mal.2.13-16

- a. One big reason to live for the Jesus is so you're your children can experience the blessings of God. Children born into a godly relationship have a greater chance of living a godly life.
 - i. Ex.20.6 – God pours out His blessing to a thousand generations to those who obey Him.
- b. You wonder why actors/actresses or even your supervisors seem so messed up and often it goes straight back into their homes.
 - i. This is why the devil works so hard to break up families of faith so that it negatively impacts the faith growth of children.
- c. You also wonder how certain person can be so kind and forgiving in the worst of life's situations and it often goes straight back to their homes.
- d. As independent as we think we are, we often just reflect the virtues or vices of our families. Concerning the unhealthy patterns of our family - If we don't allow the Holy Spirit to renew us to the image of Jesus then we will always be a reflection of our families.

- e. This does not stop once the children leave the house. We then move into being a positive influence on our grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Many of us can thank God for the godly grandparents or aunts and uncles who influenced us.

3. Marriage complements and completes us – Gen.2.18

- a. None of us are complete by ourselves. This does not mean we have to marry to be complete, but when need the companionship of others. We need people in our lives to provide what we cannot provide for ourselves. This is not a weakness; it's the way God made us.
- b. God created us in such a way that we cannot do life in a healthy by ourselves. Have you ever met a person who said they didn't need others...who acted as though it was a weakness to need things from another person? I can almost guarantee you that person had a pretty messed up background. They were taught through painful experiences that you can't trust anyone so don't.
 - i. Even Jesus needs a Body. He is not complete w/o us. Paul says that Jesus is the Head of the Church and we are His Body. He has intentionally limited Himself through us.
 - ii. We are not complete w/o others in our lives.

c. Major Needs that we all have:

- i. Acceptance – deliberate and ready reception with a favorable response.
 - ii. Respect – to value and regard highly, to convey worth.
 - iii. Support – to come alongside and gently help carry a load; to assist; to provide for.
 - iv. Encouragement – to urge forward and positively persuade toward a goal.
 - v. Security – confidence of harmony in a relationship; freedom from harm.
 - vi. Comfort or Empathy – to come alongside with word, feeling and touch; to give consolation with tenderness.
 - vii. Approval – positive affirmation; to bestow favor; to think and speak well of
 - viii. Affection – to communicate care and closeness through physical touch.
 - ix. Appreciation – to communicate in words and feeling personal gratefulness for another.
 - x. Attention – to take thought of another and convey interest, concern, care and support.
- d. We will have these needs met in healthy or unhealthy ways. God intended for them to be met in the context of a marriage (I meet Stephanie's needs and she meets mine); family (the parents meet the children's needs) and church family (as brothers and sisters in Christ we meet each other's needs).
 - i. This is why it is important to be a part of some type of group w/in the church. Otherwise, those needs probably go unmet.

Conclusion