

# Teaching about Divorce

Matthew 19:1-12

MARRIAGE

Teaching about ~~Divorce~~

Matthew 19:1-12

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- The teachings of Christ restore marriage to its original meaning of a lifelong bond between a man and a woman.
- Male and female: by its nature, marriage and marital love exist for the good of the spouses and for the purpose of bearing and raising children.
- No longer two but one flesh: with these words Christ affirmed that marriage is a union of persons which can never be truly dissolved.
- What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder; It is God who creates a marriage, and therefore man ought not attempt to undo God's work.

# Matthew 19:7-9

- But what about divorce....

- See verse 8

They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” **8** He said to them, “Because of your **hardness of heart** Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

# Matthew 19:7-9

- but from the beginning it was not so
- This passage, and especially these sayings, place the Christian understanding of marriage firmly in the definition of Genesis 1-3 where:
- Male and female are intentional creations of God  
They are intentionally designed for complementarity – the different intellectual, emotional, and willful characters of the two genders are as complimentary as are the sexual organs.
- Fruitfulness (procreation) is of the essence of the marriage relationship

# Side Note

- Because of the way in which we were created – or because of the purposes we were created to fulfill, homosexual desire is the result of a disorder of the whole person. It is not simply a matter of sexual preference – it is a misunderstanding of the design of the human body, of natural male / female existence, and of the Creator’s design for human happiness. This extensiveness of the disorder is one reason that it is called “grave”. Homosexuality is a grave disorder of the Human person.
- I point this out so that we may recognize that the problem of homosexuality is extraordinarily difficult, because it results from the disorder of the intellect, the will, the affections, the body and the soul.

# Side Note

blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.....

which is the sin of telling the Holy Spirit that you don't want his offer of Salvation through Jesus.

Forgiveness is available to all who, with contrition and repentance, confess their sin and turn to Jesus.

# Matthew 19:11-12

- The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”
- If these things seem difficult for you to hear, take comfort in knowing that it was also difficult for the disciples to hear.
- Yet, notice that Jesus does not back down from the power of his statements. Rather, he shows them another excellent way.
- For those who do not marry...



# Matthew 19:11-12

- **12** *For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."*
- For those who are not married, God's will is that we be as celibate as a eunuch.
- Eunuch: A male of the human species castrated. (Webster 1828)

# Jesus Blesses the Children

Matthew 19:13-15

# Matthew 19:13-15

- Context – this passage about children immediately follows the passage about marriage and family.
- The opponents of Jesus had tried to ensnare Jesus in a debate about divorce (a negative consequence of sin) and Jesus had instead turned the debate around to speak of marriage and family (the positive consequence of God’s creating mankind “good”.)
- This positioning underscores Jesus’ efforts to focus on the family, the goodness of marriage and children.

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- *Side Note: in dealing with opponents of Christianity, it is often best to follow the example set by Jesus and change the conversation from the negative to the positive (example: from*

# Matthew 19:13-15

- What does this passage teach?
  1. People instinctively understand the value of their children. This is a creation imperative.
  2. People sometimes devalue their children. This is a cultural imperative.
  3. Jesus calls people to return to the natural law, and to love and value family.
  4. Jesus blesses children, and always rebukes adults who do not do so.

Supertruth: Psalm 127:3-5    Genesis 33:5    Deut. 28:4

Psalm 132:11

# Matthew 19:13-15

Psalm 127:3-5

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.  
Blessed is the man  
who fills his quiver with them!

# Matthew 19:13-15

Genesis 33:5

And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children **whom God has graciously given your servant.**”

# Matthew 19:13-15

Deut. 28:4

...if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. **Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb...**



# Matthew 19:13-15

## Psalm 132:11

- The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back:  
“One of the sons of your body  
I will set on your throne.  
If your sons keep my covenant  
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,  
their sons also forever  
shall sit on your throne.”

# What Difference Does This Make?

How is Holy Trinity Anglican Church different because this truth is revealed?

1. Stepping out in faith, we embrace Jesus' concept of marriage and strive to achieve his ideal in our own relationships, while holding to his principals of marriage in our Church doctrines and in our community expectations. (Celebrate anniversaries, baptisms, weddings, and confirmation) (refuse to condone any breach of family life)
2. We recognize our responsibility to bless our children and to bring our children and grandchildren into the full blessing of Christ Jesus.
3. We have committed to a Curate program which will call a

# Some Shocking Statistics

Because of the hardness of your heart...

Divorce rates:

1st marriage - 41%

2nd marriage - 60%

3rd marriage - 73%

A staggering 64% of divorces in the United States occur in couples under the age of 24!

Only 17% of divorces occur after the age of 34.

Over 40% of divorces occur within the first 5 years of marriage.

# Shocking statistics

- If your parents are happily married, your chance of divorce decreases 14%
- Waiting to marry until after age 25 decreases your chance of divorce by 24%
- Living together before marriage increases the likelihood of divorce by as much as 40%
- Attending college decreases the risk of divorce by as much as 13%
- 2008 voter registration data shows that Red (Republican) states have slightly higher divorce rates than Blue (Democrat) states (but your children are more likely to be shot in a Blue

# More shocking statistics

- According to Barna Research Group, Baptists are twice as likely to divorce as atheists. \*\*\* (Baptists have the highest divorce rates of any US religious group. Atheist / Agnostic have the lowest.) \*\*\*These rates may be less helpful than others. Ex. Baptists are more likely to marry in the first place while atheists are more likely never to marry at all., etc.

# More shocking statistics

- Couples with children are 40% less likely to divorce than childless couples.
- 43% of children in US are raised without fathers
- Over 50% of children witness their parent's marriage fail. 25% of all children will see their parents marry and divorce multiple times.
- 28% of children whose parents divorce now live below the poverty line.
- 25.9% of non-custodial fathers are dead-beat-dads  
46.9% of non-custodial mothers are dead-beat-moms

# More shocking statistics

- Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Alaska have the highest divorce rates
- Northeastern states have lower marriage and, therefore, higher divorce rates
- Southern states have higher marriage and, therefore, higher divorce rates.

# The Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:16-30



# Matthew 19:16-22

This man is rich, young, powerful and perhaps even moral.

**Yet none of these things satisfy him.**

He wants Jesus to lead him to a greater happiness.

# Matthew 19:16-22

So what does Jesus call the rich young man to do?

To embrace the Evangelical Counsels of  
Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

**Obedience** to the Law of God – to follow Jesus’  
example

**Chastity** – to keep one’s body and soul always and  
only for love, as Jesus exemplifies

**Poverty** – detachment from the things of this world

# Matthew 19:16-22

Is there anything wrong with being rich, young or powerful?

**Job** was exceedingly rich and yet he was a man of God

**David** was young, a mere boy, and God delighted in him

**Abraham** was powerful, and he was chosen to be the Father of all believers.

There is nothing inherently wrong with being rich

# Matthew 19:16-22

Then why does the rich young man go away sad?

Because he allowed his wealth to come between him and God. (When wealth seemed to conflict with obedience, he chose to preserve his wealth. Compare this with Abraham, who abandoned his inheritance for a mere promise, and who offered his own son rather than harm his relationship with God.)

# Matthew 19:16-22

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Really?!

Matt 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# Matthew 19:16-22

1 Timothy 6:9-10

But those who **desire** to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.** It is through this **craving** that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

# Matthew 19:16-22

James 5:1-3

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire.

# Matthew 19:16-22

Here is the problem of the rich young man.

He loved his riches, he cherished them, he desired them, and the mere thought of giving them away made his flesh burn.

He loved the things of this world more than God and the things of God.

This is exactly why Jesus told this young man to do this thing.



# Matthew 19:16-22

Knowing that we are all prone to be like this rich young man, God has asked us all to give a portion of our wealth constantly. Partly, it is to provide for the poor. But also, our alms and oblations are to train us to be detached from material good, and to be completely free to follow God's call wherever, without regard to things, stuff, cash, investments, IRA's or the stock market. If giving alms to the church scares you, consider this rich young man's attachment to goods.