

PURE MARRIAGE: Divorce & Remarriage
Sermon # 11, Matthew 19:1-9

Main Point: *Divorce is a distortion of God's pure plan for marriage.*

Getting to Know You

1. How many of you have someone in your immediate family who is divorced? How has that affected your view of marriage?

Getting into the Book:

Read Matthew 19:1-6

2. If a person in our day were asking the Pharisee's question in verse 3, what might be their motive? (Possible answers: to justify their divorce, to clear up a debate, to sincerely know what God says, etc.) What was the Pharisee's motive?
3. What lessons can we learn from how Jesus answered their question in verses 4-6?
4. What is your reaction to Jesus' answer? (i.e. "I knew that already," "I've never thought about it that way before," "I disagree," etc.)

Read Matthew 19:7-9

5. What did Jesus say is the real cause of divorce? In what ways have you seen His answer play out in life?
6. How did Jesus qualify His answer about why God's law permitted divorce? ("But from the beginning it has not been this way" v. 8)
7. What did Jesus say was the only permissible grounds for someone to divorce? See also 1 Corinthians 7:15 for one other situation where it seems divorce and remarriage are allowable.

Getting out There

8. How would you counsel a friend who is considering divorce?
9. Why is it important for us to elevate our view of marriage to match God's view?
10. How has seeing the divorces of your family and friends affected your own marriage?
11. (Optional) Ask someone in the group who has been divorced to offer counsel on how we as Christians can help someone who is going through or has been divorced.

Prayer

Pray that God would give you His understanding of marriage. Pray that He would bring restoration to struggling marriages in your group and in our church. Pray that He would bring healing to those who are divorced.