

Jesus' Teaching on Divorce, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 19:1-12.
- B. Everyone has been touched by divorce. It is a severe staggering problem.
- C. Family used to be more important. There was community expectation with regard to marriage. The doctrine of the church is sliding.
- D. Jesus teaches how to respond to the problem of divorce.

II. The attack.

- A. The Pharisees asked if it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife.
- B. They sought to discredit Jesus. They expected Jesus to come out with a strong statement against divorce and alienate people.
- C. They sought to kill Jesus. (Matthew 14)

III. Jesus' response.

- A. He points out their utter ignorance of the law: "have you not read?"
- B. He gives four reasons that it is not lawful to divorce according to Scripture.
 - 1. God created one man for one woman in an indissoluble union. (Genesis 1:27)
 - 2. God brought man and woman together in a strong bond. (Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 7)
 - 3. They become one person.
 - 4. What God puts together man is not to divorce.

Application Questions:

1. Where can a person go to learn about God's expectations for divorce?

2. Why should we take divorce so seriously according to Scripture?

3. What are some other reasons not listed in Scripture that divorce is harmful? How would you counsel a friend considering a divorce? Explain.
