

# Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

## Introduction

1. In this lesson we will do a textual study of Matthew 19:3-12.
  - A. The objective of this lesson is that each member of the body of Christ should be able to explain to someone else the meaning of Matthew 19:3-12.
  - B. It is my aim to plainly set forth what the scriptures have to say regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage.

### Matthew 19:3-12

2. In Jesus' preaching and teaching, he encountered those who opposed Him.
3. Subsequently we have various questions that were answered by Jesus preserved for us in the gospel accounts.
  - A. This is one such account.
4. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written well after the beginning of the church (60, 60, 60-62, 80-90 A.D.)
5. While the material within these books date back to an earlier time, these books were given to instruct the church on how to deal with various issues in our life.
6. Therefore, the material under consideration is directly relevant to how we live.
7. Let's study this very important lesson at this time.

## A Personal Problem

1. **The text says** “the Pharisees also came to Him testing Him.”
2. **The real motivation of these particular people was not to understand God’s word. It was to catch Jesus in a trap.**
3. **When we study God’s word our motivations must be pure.**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God,** which also effectively works in you who believe.

4. **We have no obligation to study with those who are merely seeking to destroy us.**

Titus 3:10-11 **Reject a divisive man** after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

2 Timothy 2:2-5 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life,** that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

5. **While their motives were impure, Jesus chooses to deal with their question.**

## A Posed Question

1. **The question that is posed is:** “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?”
2. **In other words, can you divorce and remarry for just any reason whatsoever?**
3. **According to history, there were two schools of thought on this subject.**
  - A. **One school of thought said that divorce could occur for any reason. (Hillel)**
  - B. **Another school of thought said that divorce could only occur when infidelity was involved. (Shammai)**
4. **The question is given to Jesus to get him to come down on one side or the other of the question and thus associate himself with a particular school of thought.**
5. **The question restated is as follows: Is it lawful** (does the law of Moses teach) **for a man to divorce his wife** (i.e. put her away) **for any reason** (that is, for any reason whatsoever).

## A Primal Principle

- 1. In response to this question Jesus does not appeal to tradition, or to the Rabbis, nor to the Mosaic law proper, but to God's original creation of man.**
- 2. He says,** "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?"
- 3. This was God's pattern for the home from the beginning. One man, one woman, for life. Jesus brings us back to God's original plan for marriage. Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.**
- 4. Jesus quotes from Genesis 2:24** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
- 5. Jesus comments that they are no longer two, but one – because God has joined them together.**

## A Perpetual Principle

1. **Jesus says,** “Therefore what God has joined together, **let not man separate.**”
2. **The answer to the question is given. It is a sin to divorce for just any old reason because what God joins together man has no right to put asunder (to cast away).**
3. **Notice it is what GOD has joined together. This goes back to the example of Adam and Eve. They are the pattern. The words used in Genesis 2:24 state,** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
4. **When two are married like Adam and Eve were married, then God joins them together and no man can undo what God has done.**
5. **Notice Malachi 2:16:**

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD God of Israel says **That He hates divorce**, For it covers one's garment with violence, Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.

## A Petrified Heart

1. **The next question asked is,** “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”
2. **Jesus’ reply is as follows:** “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.”
3. **In this verse, Jesus addresses the real reasons behind the desire to divorce – a hard heart.**
4. **They refused to give their will over to the will of God.**

Zechariah 7:12 Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 13:15 FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'

5. **The times of God’s patience with hard hearts is over!**

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

## The Proper Perspective

1. **Jesus next gives the eternal law of God regarding marriage and divorce.** “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
2. **Jesus says, “And I say to you.” Reminiscent of Matthew 5 and 6 where He contrasts his teachings with the Rabbinical traditions.**
3. **The person who puts away his wife and then marries another is committing adultery.**
4. **The person who marries the one who is put away is committing adultery.**
5. **The only exception is when a spouse is put away on the grounds of **fornication (sexual immorality)**, in which case the innocent party may remarry.**
6. **Adultery is adultery in this context. It means nothing different than what we would think regarding adultery today when someone does it during marriage.**
7. **The basic idea that Jesus is getting across here is that when you divorce your spouse for some reason other than fornication, you really have done nothing but commit adultery—no real divorce has occurred. God still holds you as married to your first spouse.**
8. **So the person who divorces and remarries unscripturally is really not divorced at all—he or she is just living in a state of adultery!**

## Pondered Repercussions

1. **The disciples have something to say regarding this teaching of Jesus. They say, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”**
2. **The disciples understood the strictness of Jesus’ statement.**
3. **Jesus responds to this statement as follows:**

Matthew 19:11-12 ..... **“All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:** For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.”

- A. **What “saying” was Jesus talking about? He was referring to the statement in verse 9.**
4. **To whom is the statement given?**
    - A. **To those who are considering marriage.**
    - B. **To those who are married.**
    - C. **To those who are considering divorce.**
    - D. **To those who have divorced due to fornication.**
    - E. **To those who have improperly divorced their spouses.**



5. **The statement** "He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."
  - A. **This does not mean that if you don't want to accept this teaching you don't have to receive it.**
  - B. **Jesus does not say "IF you are able," but he says "He who is able."**
  - C. **The force of the statement is, if you are in this situation, then receive this teaching and apply it to your life.**

## **Conclusion**

1. **We have looked at Jesus' teaching on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage.**
2. **All married people must ensure that they are not in an unscriptural marriage relationship.**
3. **It is important that we to examine the Words of Jesus and make sure that we make the proper application of all of His teachings in our day to day lives.**

3. **Remember:**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges **him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

4. **If you are not a Christian this morning . . .**
  - A. **Hear the word (Romans 10:17).**
  - B. **Believe with all your heart (Hebrews 11:6).**
  - C. **Repent of your sins (Acts 17:30).**
  - D. **Confess Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16).**
  - E. **Be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark16:16).**

