

The Way It Was

Singleness and marriage series Part 1

Matthew 19:1-12

5/19/13

Matthew 19:1 And it came about that when Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee, and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;

² and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

³ And *some* Pharisees came to Him, testing Him, and saying, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any cause at all?"

⁴ And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female,

⁵ and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh '?

⁶ "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

⁷ They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send *her* away?"

⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

⁹ "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

¹⁰ The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

¹¹ But He said to them, "Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.

¹² "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*."

A Biblical Marriage Purpose Statement

1. Oneness and companionship

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.

²² And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

2. Mutual enjoyment and the meeting of needs

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

² But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

³ Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

⁵ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

3. Worship and spiritual growth

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

4. Ministry and outreach

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

³⁰ because we are members of His body.

³¹ For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

5. Raising godly children

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God's Heart Regarding His Marriage Covenant and Divorce

Malachi 2:11 "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

¹² "As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob *everyone* who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.

¹³ "And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with* favor from your hand.

¹⁴ "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

¹⁵ "But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that* one *do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

All Scripture is from the NASV