19:1-15

- **Review…**
  - Confronting Sin…
    - Jesus had warned the disciples - OFFENCES [σκάνδαλον] would come - **Matthew 18:7**
    - Therefore - IF [subjunctive] people SIN [ἁμαρτάνω] - they were to do THREE things…
    - Go to the ONE on ONE - so there might be restoration…
    - Take TWO or THREE people with them - as a MEDIATOR…
    - Take them before the church [severity of sin] - and if they will not repent - unbeliever!
  - Forgiving Sin…
    - Peter asked Jesus - if SEVEN times was enough to forgive a brother…
    - Jesus told him SEVENTY times SEVEN [490] - till there was NO more sin - **Daniel 9:24**
    - Because we have been FORGIVEN all of our sin [ten thousand talents]
    - Therefore how could we NOT forgive ANYONE - EVERYTHING they do to us!

- **1st - Marriage… vs. 1-6**
  - 1st - Rejecting Jesus… vs. 1-2
    - After… vs. 1
      - Now it came to pass - when Jesus had finished these sayings.
      - He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan!
      - AFTER Jesus had FINISHED [τελέω] these saying - He LEFT the Galilee…
      - He came down to Judea - near the Jordan River - as He moved towards Jerusalem…
      - This was the beginning END of the MINISTRY of Jesus - as He prepared for the CROSS!
      - The phrase AFTER these saying – is used THREE times in the book:
      - After the completing the Sermon on the Mount - **Matthew 7:28**
      - After completing His ministry in the Galilee – **Matthew 19:1**
      - After completing His preparation for the cross in Judea - M**atthew 26:1**
      - We have come to the END of the SECOND section of the book of MATTHEW…
      - We now come into the THIRD part – the REJECTION of the KING!
    - Healing… vs. 2
      - Great multitudes followed Him - and He healed them there!
      - LARGE [πολύς] crowds followed Jesus from the Galilee to Judea…
      - And even though Jesus knew they would REJECT Him - He HEALED [θεραπεύω] them all…
      - These same PEOPLE would lay down palm branches - cry out HOSANNA - **Matthew 21:9**
      - Then only four days later - they would cry out CRUCIFY - **Mark 15:13**
      - They would REJECT Jesus - but He NEVER rejected them!
      - This what GRACE looks like - it is God healing the very people who would CRUCIFY Him…
      - God does NOT see us as the enemy - He LOVES us and is trying to SAVE us…
      - And anyone who come to Him - no matter what we have done - can be HEALED!
  - 2nd - Testing Jesus… vs. 3
    - Pharisees…
      - The Pharisees also came to Him testing Him!
      - The PHARISEES [and scribes] had already challenged Jesus FIVE times…
      - FIRST - they ASKED why Jesus ate with SINNERS - **Matthew 9:11**
      - SECOND- they ACCUSED His DISCIPLES breaking the Sabbath - **Matthew 12:2**
      - THIRD - they DEMANDED Jesus show them a SIGN - **Matthew 12:38**
      - FOURTH - they CHALLENGED Him about their TRADITIONS [washing hands] - **Matthew 15:2**

- FIFTH - the TESTED [πειράζω] Jesus asking for a SIGN from HEAVEN - **Matthew 16:1**
- Now a SIXTH time - they are going to TEST the Lord…
- TEST [πειράζω] - to TEMPT someone - try to get them to STUMBLE!
- When satan came to Jesus in the wilderness - he TEMPTED [πειράζω] Him THREE times…
- When Jesus answered him with the WORD - he left for a while - **Luke 4:13**
- But now he was back - using his children [Pharisees] to try and STUMBLE Jesus again!
- When satan attacks - it does not mean he appears with a pitchfork…
- The enemy can come in many forms - even from those who look godly - **II Corinthians 11:14**
- But no matter HOW the enemy attacks - the answer is ALWAYS the same…
- We go back to the WORD of God - and stand on the TRUTH!

▪ Divorce…
- Saying to Him: Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?
- The TEST the PHARISEES gave to Jesus - was about DIVORCE…
- FIRST they state THEIR fact - it is [indicative] allowed for a man to DIVORCE his wife…
- DIVORCE [ἀπολύω] - to send away - the implication is to break up a marriage…
- SECOND they give their question - could a man get a DIVORCE for ANY [πᾶς] reason!
- There were a VARIETY of views on DIVORCE in those days…
- Rabbi Shammai [conservative] taught DIVORCE was only allowed for ADULTERY…
- Rabbi Hillel [liberal] taught a man could DIVORCE for ANY reason…
- If his wife burnt the rice - if he did not get along with her - if he found a prettier woman!
- It is amazing that times have NOT changed much - this debate still rages today…
- Technically DIVORCE is illegal in the Philippines - but we just changed the name [annulment]
- And there is currently a bill [9349] that has passed the House that would legalize DIVORCE…
- The question is NOT whether people will get DIVORCED [for good or bad it happens]
- The question is WHEN is DIVORCE allowed by God!

o 3rd - From the beginning… vs. 4
▪ [Jesus] answered and said to them:
▪ Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female!
▪ Jesus did NOT answer by quoting the ideas or OPINIONS of men…
▪ He went back to the WORD of God - He went back to Genesis [ἀρχή]
▪ When God created the WORLD - He made TWO genders - MALE and FEMALE!
▪ **Genesis 1:27 -** "God created man in His own image… male and female He created them."
▪ The world wants to ERASE God from their conscience - we were NOT created [evolution]
▪ And as society rejects the CREATOR - the very definition of GENDER is challenged…
▪ We see people today questioning the DESIGN [currently the count is 107 genders]
▪ The argument is since we are an ACCIDENT - no DESIGN - we can be whatever makes us HAPPY…
▪ The ATTACK has gone on to question WHO people can MARRY…
▪ We are pressured today to accept HOMOSEXUALITY as an acceptable lifestyle...
▪ Society tries to argue people are born that way [no scientific evidence]
▪ But we go back to the ORIGINAL - to the DESIGN - marriage is one MAN and one WOMAN!

o 4th - Plan of God… vs. 5
▪ One Flesh…
- For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife…
- And the two shall become one flesh. So then they are no longer two but one flesh!
- The plan from the beginning was for a MAN to leave his HOME - become ONE with his wife…
- Meaning MARRIAGE is NOT the idea of MEN - it comes from GOD…
- And it is IMPORTANT - the ONLY thing to survive the FALL of man - was MARRIAGE!
- Therefore MARRIAGE is perfect – although the TWO sinners who get married are NOT…
- But it does tell us how important MARRIAGE is – for THREE reasons!

- Friendship…
  - When God created the world – everything was very GOOD – **Genesis 1:31**
  - The FIRST time God said something was NOT good – was Adam being alone!
  - **Genesis 2:18** - "The LORD God said… I will make a companion who will help him."
  - Because two are better than one - **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
  - God knew that we do not do well on our own - we need FRIENDSHIP…
  - Out spouse should be our BEST friend – the ONLY one we will have for a lifetime!
- Godly Children...
  - **Genesis 1:28** – "Then God blessed them - and God said to them - Be fruitful and multiply!"
  - God created MARRIAGE – so there could be CHILDREN…
  - They are no longer TWO but ONE - fulfilled in children – **Genesis 2:24**
  - Not just CHILDREN – God wants godly CHILDREN - **Malachi 2:15**
  - Children who know - love - and follow Jesus – by following their parents example!
- Understanding Love...
  - God uses TWO relationships to describe His love for us...
  - God calls us His CHILDREN – **I John 3:2** - God also calls us His WIFE – **Revelation 21:9**
  - When a husband sees his bride dressed in white – that is HOW Jesus sees us…
  - The first time a mother holds her newborn child – HOW Jesus sees us…
  - It is through MARRIAGE we understand how much our Heavenly Father LOVES us!

o 5th - Do Not separate… vs. 6
- Therefore what God has joined together - let not man separate!
- THEREFORE - knowing the PLAN of God for MARRIAGE…
- Once God has JOINED [glued] two people together - let no MAN tear them apart!
- God says MARRIAGE is GOOD - it is part of His PERFECT plan for us…
- But our enemy wants to get us to QUESTION the plan of God - **Genesis 3:1**
- He will whisper lies in our ear - someone else will make us HAPPIER…
- But being ripped apart from ONE sinner - just to marry ANOTHER is NOT the answer…
- Satan HATES marriage – because marriage reveals the LOVE of God…
- He would love nothing more than to see our families ripped apart…
- But do NOT believe the LIE - instead to back to the PLAN of God!

- **2ND - DIVORCE… VS. 7-9**

o 1st - The Law… vs. 7
- [The Pharisees] said to [Jesus]:
- Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce - and to put her away?
- The PHARISEES challenged Jesus with the COMMAND [ἐντέλλομαι] of Moses…
- The LAW did allow for ONLY a man [not the wife] to initiate a DIVORCE - **Deuteronomy 24:1**
- The dilemma is that the REASON for the DIVORCE was not clarified…
- It just says if a man finds UNCLEANNESS in his wife…
- UNCLEANNESS [עֶרְוָה] - the word means to be NAKED - or behave improperly…
- This lack of clarification is what led to the wide varieties of interpretation about DIVORCE!
- The problem with a LAW - is that it can easily be ABUSED…
- There are times when DIVORCE is unfortunately a necessary option…
- But the dilemma is once the door is opened - people will ABUSE it…
- In the US - the DIVORCE rate is almost FIFTY percent…
- The man reason given for DIVORCE - the generic excuse of irreconcilable differences!

o 2nd - Hard Heart… vs. 8-9
- [Jesus] said to them: Moses because of the hardness of your hearts…
- Permitted you to divorce your wives - but from the beginning it was not so!
- Moses did ALLOW for DIVORCE - but only because of a HARD heart [σκληροκαρδία]

- It was NOT part of the ORIGINAL plan that God created in Genesis [ἀρχή]!
- When we were SINGLE - we could do ANYTHING we wanted…
- We could go ANYWHERE we wanted - eat ANYTHING we liked…
- Because there was NO one else we had to think about!
- Which is why MARRIAGE is NOT easy - now we have to think about SOMEONE else…
- But that is part of what makes MARRIAGE a blessing - if we do NOT harden our heart…
- Like a MIRROR that tells us the TRUTH - and reveals who we are…
- Our SPOUSE reflects us - and shows us the truth about how SELFISH nature…
- God gave us MARRIAGE to HUMBLE us - and KIDS to finish us off!
- **Luke 9:23** - "If anyone desires to come after Me - let him deny himself… and follow Me."

o 3rd - Reasons for Divorce… vs. 9

- Adultery…
  - 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!
  - Jesus gave only ONE reason why God allows for DIVORCE…
  - SEXUAL immorality [πορνεία] - any sexual relationship outside of MARRIAGE!
  - The word [πορνεία] is where we get the word PORNOGRAPHY…
  - Jesus would say that if we THINK about another woman - it is ADULTERY - **Matthew 5:28**
  - SEX was created by God to BIND two people together - **I Corinthians 6:16**
  - And when a SPOUSE goes outside of marriage and makes that BOND with another person…
  - It betrays TRUST - and it is VERY hard [impossible without Jesus] to overcome that hurt…
  - BUT - it is NEVER the best option to seek to get DIVORCED…
  - To tear apart what God has GLUED together - is always DEVASTATING…
  - Rather than have a HARD heart - the better option is to FORGIVE!
- Other Reasons…
  - There are TWO more reasons the Bible gives for DIVORCE…
  - FIRST - if a believer is ABANDONED by the unbelieving spouse - **I Corinthians 7:15**
  - Note the believing spouse is not permitted to abandon the marriage…
  - But if the unbelieving spouse leaves – the believing spouse is free to remarry…
  - SECOND - if a spouse DIES [natural causes] - then the living spouse can remarry - **Romans 7:2**
  - God does allow for remarriage if the DIVORCE was for Biblical reasons…
  - Although we must get REMARRIED to a believer - **I Corinthians 7:3**
  - It is very challenging to get remarried - because it is VERY expensive to get ANNULLED…
  - But God does not LACK resources - and He is more than able to PROVIDE…
  - Because it is important to make our relationship right before MEN and GOD!
- Unbiblical divorce…
  - What if we have been divorced for ANOTHER reason…
  - Divorce is NOT an unforgivable sin – and God can take beauty from the ashes - **Isaiah 61:3**
  - But there are CONSEQUENCES – broken hearts - the challenge of blended families…
  - The thing to remember is that divorce is NEVER the best option…
  - NOT that God wants us to be miserable – He wants us to have GREAT marriages…
  - Remembering the BEST marriages are NOT based on feelings or commitment…
  - These things are not consistent - because we are NOT consistent…
  - The one constant we can build a lifelong marriage on is Jesus - **Hebrews 13:8**

- **3RD - SINGLENESS… VS. 10-12**

o 1st - Better to be single… vs. 10

- [Jesus] disciples said to Him: If such is the case of the man with his wife it is better not to marry!

- In response to the RESTRICTIONS Jesus put on DIVORCE…
- The disciples answered - it is [indicative] better for a man NOT to get married…
- The disciples understood what Jesus was saying – MARRIAGE was for LIFE…
- Whether they married a GOOD spouse or a BAD one – they were STUCK…
- Considering the potential hazards of marrying a BAD spouse - better to be SINGLE!
- **Proverbs 18:22** – "He who finds a wife finds a good thing!"
- There is wisdom in being VERY careful on deciding WHOM to marry...
- It is a decision that will last a LIFETIME – for better or worse!

o 2nd - Being Single… vs. 11-12

- Born Single…
  - [Jesus] said to them: All cannot accept this saying but only those to whom it has been given.
  - For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mothers womb!
  - Jesus answered and told them NOT everyone [πᾶς] can be SINGLE…
  - Only those who have been GIVEN [passive] the GIFT are able - THREE ways:
  - FIRST - some men are BORN as EUNUCHS [unable to procreate]
  - There are any number of disabilities that would prevent someone from getting married…
  - Such as a child is born with downs syndrome - or cerebral palsy!
- Made Single…
  - There are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men!
  - SECOND - some men are MADE as EUNUCHS by other men…
  - It was not uncommon to castrate men who would serve in the court of the king!
  - When ESTHER was preparing to become the QUEEN of Persia - **Esther 2:15**
  - She befriended Hegai - the chief EUNUCH who served the women in the palace!
- Choosing to be Single…
  - There are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heavens sake!
  - THIRD - some men CHOOSE to be SINGLE [eunuch] for the Kingdom of God…
  - Because there is an advantage to NOT being married!
  - **I Corinthians 7:32-33** – "He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord – how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world – how he may please his wife."
  - Those who are NOT married - do NOT be in a rush to get married…
  - There is a BLESSING to being SINGLE - we have more TIME…
  - When we are married much of our TIME and energy goes to our family…
  - When single we are freed up in our TIME and resources to serve the Lord!
- Power to be Single…
  - He who is able to accept it - let him accept it!
  - Those who have the POWER [δύναμαι] to accept SINGLENESS…
  - MUST [imperative] receive the GIFT the Lord has given to them!
  - If we can [δύναμαι] be SINGLE – then it is better to be SINGLE - and wholly serve the Lord...
  - But if we are tempted [burn] with the idea of MARRIAGE - **I Corinthians 7:2**
  - If we have dreamt our whole life about being MARRIED...
  - If we think every time someone looks at us they may be the ONE...
  - Then there is a good chance we are called to be married…
  - But do NOT be in a hurry - wait on the Lord for His timing!
  - **Philippians 4:11** – "I have learned in whatever state I am - to be content."

- **4TH - THE CHILDREN… VS. 13-15**

o 1st - Praying for kids… vs. 13

- Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray.
- The disciples rebuked them!

- People began to bring CHILDREN [παιδίον] to Jesus so He could PRAY for them…
- But the DISCIPLES rebuked [ἐπιτιμάω] them [dative] - referring to their parents…
- The question is WHY would parents bring their KIDS to Jesus at this moment…
- When He just finished teaching about MARRIAGE and DIVORCE…
- The answer - because the CHILDREN are just as effected [if not more] than the PARENTS!
- It is well documented that CHILDREN who have experienced DIVORCE…
- Have lower grades - higher levels of drug abuse - depression - and are more promiscuous…
- They are also HALF as likely to go to church when the grow up!
- Often in our MARRIAGES we get FOCUSED on our own problems…
- We MISS the impact that our decision have on our KIDS!

o 2nd - About the Kids… vs. 14-15

- Jesus said: Let the little children come to Me - and do not forbid them.
- For of such is the kingdom of heaven. He laid His hands on them and departed from there!
- Jesus answer was SIMPLE - let [imperative] the CHILDREN [παιδίον] come to Him…
- They were NOT [imperative] to stop them - because the Kingdom BELONGS [genitive] to them!
- Our kids WATCH everything we do – and LEARN through our choices…
- They are going to FOLLOW in our footsteps - so where are we leading them…
- Having a good MARRIAGE - is NOT just about us - it is about our KIDS…
- We want to LEAD them to Jesus - bring them to the one who will lay His hands on them…
- The greatest gift a father can give - is to let his CHILDREN see him LOVE his wife…
- Because it is through our LIVES we get to SHOW them the LOVE of Christ!