

19:1-15

- **REVIEW...**
 - Confronting Sin...
 - Jesus had warned the disciples - OFFENCES [σκάνδαλον] would come - **Matthew 18:7**
 - Therefore - IF [subjunctive] people SIN [ἀμαρτάνω] - 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 - **Matthew 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 – **1 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!
- 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
 - 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 [ἐπιτέλλομαι] 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 [עֲרֻוָּה] - 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!
 - 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 - SINGLENES... 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 SINGLENESSE...
 - 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!