

MARRIAGE & SINGLEHOOD

Matt 19:1-11

(Matt. 19) *1* When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. *2* Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. *3* Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" *4* "Haven't you read," he replied, *"that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, '5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?*

(Matt. 19) 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 *I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.*"

(Matt. 19) 10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." 11 *Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.* 12 *For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others have been made eunuchs; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."*

CONTEXT OF THE HARD SAYING

PHARISEES CAME TO HIM TO TEST HIM...

"IS IT LAWFUL FOR A MAN TO DIVORCE
HIS WIFE FOR ANY AND EVERY REASON?"

OTHER PHARISAICAL TEACHING
ON DIVORCE (DEUT. 24:1)

JESUS' VIEW ON MARRIAGE

JESUS' VIEW ON DIVORCE

JESUS' VIEW ON GENDER EQUALITY

JESUS AS THE GROOM

JESUS' VIEW ON MARRIAGE

⁴ at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'
⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?

JESUS' VIEW ON MARRIAGE

CREATOR 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE'

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF A FAMILY UNIT

WHAT ABOUT PROPOSITION 8?

JESUS' VIEW ON DIVORCE

¹ If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house...

DEUT 24

³ "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

MATTHEW 19

JESUS' VIEW ON DIVORCE

⁷ "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" ⁸ Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

JESUS' VIEW ON DIVORCE

NOT THE WAY INTENDED

DIVORCE AS "CONCESSION" BUT
CANNOT BE "FOR ANY AND EVERY REASON"

GENDER EQUALITY

He may divorce her even if he found another fairer than she"

Rabbi Akiba in the tradition of Hillel

Man can divorce his wife for "Whosoever cause"

Josephus, Jewish Antiquities

He may divorce her even if she spoiled a dish for him

Teaching from School of Hillel

GENDER EQUALITY

THE EFFECT OF DIVORCE ON WOMEN

JESUS THE CHAMPION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

PROP 8: THE BALANCE OF BIBLICAL
INTENT & DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE OPPRESSED

SINGLENESS

CONTEXT: DISCIPLES' ATTITUDE

DIFFICULT PATH OF SINGLENESS

A FALLEN WORLD: BIOLOGICAL FACTOR
& HUMAN FACTOR

SINGLENESS AS A CALLING

DISCIPLES' ATTITUDE

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

DISCIPLES' ATTITUDE

JESUS' HIGH CALLING ON MARRIAGE
& GENDER EQUALITY

SPOILED BY PATRIARCHY

DIFFICULT PATH OF SINGLENESS

“NOT MARRIED” (1 COR. 7)

“EUNUCH”

IT IS NOT EASY TO BE SINGLE

FALLEN WORLD

¹² For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others have been made eunuchs

FALLEN WORLD

NOT THEIR CHOICE

BIOLOGICAL OR HUMAN FACTOR: BOTH!

CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE POWER

²⁷ And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot... ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him... And (the Eunuch) invited Philip to come up and sit with him... ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

CONTEXT OF THE HARD SAYING

PHARISEES CAME TO HIM TO TEST HIM...

BOXING JESUS INTO A CORNER

SINGLENESS AS CALLING

^{12c} and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven.

SINGLENESS AS CALLING

"RENOUNCED" - A DELIBERATE CHOICE

IN CONTRAST TO NOT HAVING A CHOICE

IN CONTRAST TO A CHOICE MADE OUT
OF COWARDICE AND EVASION OF RESPONSIBILITY

BRIDE OF CHRIST

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

BRIDE OF CHRIST

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

REV 19

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

REV 22

Discussion Questions

- Why would modern people have such difficult time following Jesus' idea on marriage & divorce?
- Was your parents divorced? How did your parents' marriage influenced your view toward marriage and gender role?
- It is difficult to be a single person, how does Jesus view on singleness encourages you?
- Jesus' sexual ethics is controversial, - how do we apply what we learn today when we are talking to:
 - A Homosexual Couple accuse you of bigotry
 - A fellow Christian who strongly supports prop. 8