



“DEALING WITH DIVORCE”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 5 of 19

Sunday, July 30, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 5:31-32

Big Idea: While divorce is not God’s ideal, there is grace and hope and healing for those who experience divorce.

Matthew 5:31-32, “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.”

I. JESUS HELD HIGH THE IDEAL OF MARRIAGE.

Matthew 19:3-6, “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?” “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 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’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Matthew 19:9, “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:10b, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

Malachi 2:16a, “I hate divorce.”

II. JESUS TAUGHT THAT DIVORCE IS A CONCESSION, NOT A COMMAND.

Matthew 19:7-8, “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.”

Deuteronomy 24:1-4a, "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, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD."

Shammai = a more narrow and conservative approach

Hillel = a more broad and liberal approach

Matthew 5:32a, "But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness ..."

μοιχεία

‘πορνεία’

Any illicit sexual activity outside of the marriage.

III. THREE COMMITMENTS WE CAN MAKE AS A CHURCH FAMILY.

- A. Let's be compassionate to those who are suffering from relational pain.**
- B. Let's discourage frivolous divorces.**
- C. Let's keep on championing healthy marriages.**