**June 9, 2019 “What About Divorce?” Matthew 5:31-32**

**Matthew 19:1-9**

While looking for information regarding the subject of divorce, I came across an interesting statistic which showed that of the approximately 78 million children in the United States only 58% of them live with their biological parents. That means that approximately 32 million children are living in homes with a mother or father who is not their biological parent or live in a home with only one or the other parent. Another interesting statistic was that if you or I today, live to be 80 years old we will have spent 4,000 days or nearly 11 years of our life watching television. I thought that statistic to be unreasonably high until I tried to remember the last time I did not watch television for an entire day and I was hard pressed to remember that last time that happened. Unfortunately for our children, the television is where many of them get their concept of what a family should be. Coupled with the last statistic was another which stated that the average American dad spent less than 37 seconds a day interacting with their children in a conversational arrangement. Add to these issues that fact that many mothers of young children feel compelled to work outside of the home to help meet financial obligations, it is small wonder that many American families are in disarray.

So, is it because of all these issues Jesus addresses the issue of divorce in His sermon? The answer is NO! We must be careful to study the Scriptures within the context in which they are written.

For example turn to Matthew 19:1-9 where Jesus is again discussing the issue of divorce with the Pharisees.

First, we must ask ourselves why the Pharisees are asking this question in Matthew 19:3 when they knew full well what Jesus stated earlier in Matthew 5:31-32? The answer to that question lies in Matthew 14:1-12. Were the Pharisees really all that concerned about marriage and divorce or were they wondering if they could get Jesus to say something like what John the Baptist said… could they get Herod to separate Jesus from His head as Herod did to John the Baptist?

Before we leave Matthew 19, please look with me to Matthew 19:4-5 and tell me what constitutes a marriage in God’s eyes? Note “He made them male and female”. So, there you have it, marriage in God’s view is between a male and female… period.

Matthew 5:31-32

1. Four main views of divorce
   1. Why?
      1. Many people try to apply secular views into what the Bible teaches
         1. No divorce ever… period
         2. Yes… divorce can occur… but no remarriage ever
         3. Yes… divorce can occur for whatever reason and remarriage is OK as well
         4. Yes… divorce can occur and remarriage can occur under special circumstances
2. Remember Matthew 5:31-32 follows Matthew 5:27-30
   1. What was Jesus addressing?
      1. Adultery
         1. Matthew 5:31… you have heard it said
         2. Was that O.T. Law?
            1. Deuteronomy 24:1-4
            2. Question?

Do you see any issue with remarriage here?

* + - * 1. “indecency” or “uncleaness” in her
        2. Original Hebrew… “obnoxious”

Matthew 19:3

For any reason at all?

That is what the Pharisees taught

1. Does the Bible then teach that divorce is never permitted?
   1. The answer is
      1. No… it does not teach that anywhere
      2. What is God’s will for marriage?
         1. Matthew 19:4-6
         2. Let not man put asunder
            1. Why did Moses command?

Matthew 19:8… Moses permitted this

Why? Because of the hardness of your heart

1. Why the hardness of the heart?
   1. What is our/man’s view of marriage?
      1. Marriage is to make me feel happy, fulfilled, feel wanted, feel loved
      2. What is the Biblical reason for marriage?
         1. Ephesians 5:22-33
            1. Both husband and wife
            2. Know marriage to be a witness of
            3. Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:32)

Revelation 21:1-5

How long will Christ be with His bride?

How long should you as a Christian man be with your Christian wife?

Till death separates you

Is that your view of marriage and is it mine?

1. Matthew 5:31-32
   1. What is Jesus then addressing?
      1. Pharisees were divorcing their wives for any reason at all
         1. Sounds like Shariah law
            1. Jesus is forbidding this
            2. Why…

You say you are not committing adultery

You look at a woman with lust in your heart

You are guilty

You send your wife away without just cause (adultery)

You caused both you and her to commit adultery and also the man who will marry her

So, then what is the summary of all this? God has intended for those of us who are married to stay in that marriage relationship and guard it for what it is. It is to be a spiritual and physical relationship never to be violated in any way.

So, what about me you might ask? I have been married several times and have violated my marriage vows in many ways… what about me?

Remember what Paul said… II Corinthians 12:9… “For My Grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness”.

II Corinthians 1:3-7… two assignments for the week. Evaluate your marriage as it relates to Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33. Find another person who has experienced divorce and share the Grace of God with them. (II Corinthians 1:3-7)

We will continue with our study of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7 and you do not want to miss out on the teachings of Jesus.