

# **Matthew 19:1-12**

## ***Divide and Conquer***

January 12, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

### **Intro** –

**v.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. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. The Pharisees also came to Him, *testing* Him, saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just *any reason?*”

This is a challenging subject to talk about, because everyone has varied experiences with marriage and divorce.

- **For some marriage has been a dream come true.**
  - **You have a hard time comprehending anyone being divorced**
  - **For others marriage has been a nightmare**
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## **1. God's Ideal For Marriage**

**v.4** - He answered and said to them, “Haven't you read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall *leave* his father and mother and be *joined* to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

**God's ideal for marriage is "leave and cleave." (KJV word)**

**v.5** - For this reason a man shall *leave* his father and mother

- **Parents, train your children in the way they should go.**
- **Children, honor your father and mother**

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God gives us His commands for two primary reasons:

- **One is for His glory**
- **Two, because He loves us, God gives His commands for our good**

Ephesians 5:31-32 - “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but *I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

**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're no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”**

**Jesus**: "What God has joined together, let not man separate.”

#### **1. For His glory.**

*"I'll never leave you or forsake you."*

#### **2. For our good.**

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## **2. God's Concession For Divorce**

v.7 - They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”

v.8 - He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives...”

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**“Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**

That why Jesus said: **“Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**

**Deuteronomy 24:1** - When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce...

The word "uncleanness" is the Hebrew word *ervah*.

**Deuteronomy 23:12-14** - “You must have a designated area outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. Each of you must have a spade as part of your equipment. Whenever you relieve yourself, dig a hole with the spade and cover the excrement. The camp must be holy, for the LORD your God moves around in your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies. He must not see any unclean thing among you.”

**v.9** - Jesus: "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.”

**1 Cor. 7:13-15** - If a woman has a husband who isn't a believer and he's willing to live with her, she must not divorce him... But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister isn't under bondage in such cases.

**v.10** - His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it's better not to marry.”

**v.11** - But He 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 mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.”

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Take seriously what Jesus said: **A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they're no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”**