

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

The Hardness of Your Hearts

Matthew 19:1-12

Recap:

- Forgiveness produces forgiveness
- 70x7
- Proper order

This time:

- Gender, Marriage, Divorce
- The hardness of your heart
- If you've been divorced, please don't let this condemn you. But let it cause you to reflect and consider what God desires.

Do you ever have a hard time hearing?

In one ear and out the other

Does it even make it in the ear?

Misunderstanding what someone said?

The kids, Ash and I at dinner

Impatient Peter

Alkaline water, no health claims, we project what we want on it

It's the same thing with our hearts.

When they're hard, we don't hear what God is saying

Or misinterpret

The world has many ideas about what we're about to study

What Jesus says today is very plain

Very simple

Immensely logical

But, We'll either accept it or balk at it

[Pray]

19:1-2

Scholars say that the word indicates he was going along the Jordan, not beyond it.

**“He healed them, the text saith; but it saith not, they believed in him.”
(Poole)**

**Jesus took the time to heal everyone.
But it’s on us whether we believe it or not.**

The condition of our heart is revealed when God does something for us.

**Like Pharaoh, our hearts either are softened by the touch of God
Or we resist and choose to harden them**

Healings in our country or others. Where does the credit go? If a doctor did surgery, did he really heal you? Were we even thankful to have a doctor?

Is there a cure for a hard or a broken heart?

:3

Pharisees came and tested/tempted him

The difference between a test and a temptation?

A temptation is a test, a trap, intended to get us to fail

A test is given to see if we’ll pass

Interesting that they tempt Jesus to fail on this topic

They’re big on the Mosaic law

Moses is their hero

The law is their standard above all

By why this question to try to entrap him?

What would he say?

Where was Joseph? Did he leave, like he wanted to during the betrothal, did he die?

The OT was clear. The punishment for adultery was death. (Lev 20:10)

It was also the hot topic of their day, one strict, one lax

“High ideal of marriage but a low view of women...today, men also have a low view of women; tragically, women also have a low view of women, and often reject the idea that women should be different than men in any way.”

iv. “Perhaps, too, they hoped that Jesus would say something that would entangle him in the Herod-Herodias affair so that he might meet the Baptist’s fate.” (Carson)

Just any reason?

From what I understand, if your wife was a bad cook, that was enough

Where’s the line, Jesus?

Do you KNOW what I put UP with?

:4-6

Have you not read?

I love the dig at these “scholars” of the law.

The Bible is very straightforward on many things. This is one of them.

A simple reading gives us everything we need to know...if it sinks in.

Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV - For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.

A lot of times we read the Bible and we get cut deep by it.

We know what the right answer is, but we don’t want to do that.

James 4:17 NKJV - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

Jesus goes back to the beginning

Genesis is literal. Jesus teaches it.

God made Adam and Eve

Male and Female

That’s it. Simple.

God made you, YOU

No amount of pretending, name changing, surgery or otherwise will change what God made you

Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV - "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so [are] an abomination to the LORD your God.

The idea here is that gender roles, gender norms, gender expression are distinct and from God.

It's more than a story, it's more than anatomy, it's a spiritual picture (as we'll see)

For this reason...

marriage was created because man and woman were created

Procreation was designed to be conducted in a safe place - marriage

Male and female relationships are the most powerful physical force in the world

They have the power to create human life
Or destroy it

Two shall become one flesh

The relationship between a man and a woman is designed to become one person

Just like God created Adam and took Eve from Adam,
they were one and desire to return to be one

This attraction is natural

Being so powerful it needs to be harnessed very carefully

Like fire, or nuclear energy

What God has joined together, let man not separate

When God has done it, it is only to great folly and destruction
when man tries to override God's design

Is that not even so from the beginning?

Even the very essence of sin? Pride. We've got a better plan...

The design of male and female

The ordination of marriage, naturally from just the power of the relationship

Is meant to be a picture of God and humanity

Jesus and His bride, the church

A desire to be one, A covering, a blessed union, a protected relationship

God equates idolatry and adultery throughout the scripture
An idolatrous people is committing spiritual adultery against God

Read 1 Cor 7:1-16

Read the rest for homework

The question of is this person the right one for me?
 That should be answered BEFORE tying the knot.
 One person for everyone? In a sense, I believe so, but God is sovereign
 Folks I thought would match up

But once you commit, that is it.

If you married the wrong one, they are now the right one

After salvation, this is the most important covenant (decision) in your life.
Do not take it lightly.

That's the problem with youthful lust, we see the beauty now without any consideration for the disaster later

Attracted and aligned on physical, mental, emotional, spiritual issues
Opposites aren't necessarily the best choice -

2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

:7-9

So if God created marriage, why did He allow Moses to officially institute divorce?

By the way, us Christians are to obey God and good government ordinances, like marriage
So if you're not married in the eyes of the state you're not married in the eyes of God
No matter what you tell yourselves or others to justify your sin

So repent and either break up, or move out and get married, or go get married today.

I find it interesting how it's only the man who can legally get the paperwork...
I'll bet more of these guys wouldn't stay married if the woman could do the same...

No fault divorce is a scourge on our society

Fatherless or motherless children

Rampant broken and split homes
When did we become such quitters?

We get mad (rightfully so) at the idea of calling things that aren't marriage, marriage. Making laws and hate crimes to protect these abominations masquerading as a holy institution...

But who trampled all over marriage first?
The divorce rate amongst the “church” is the same as the world.

Jesus flips it back on them
Because of the hardness of YOUR hearts Moses gave the divorce

It wasn't God's idea.
It was to deal with a people who refused to be godly

Legality doesn't mean morality
In our Godless society, we think that if we can make it civilly legal our spiritual guilt will go away

Put her away? Where? Back to her parents who paid for the dowry and wedding? What about the kids?

- Who suffers the most in a divorce? The children.
- What is the primary weapon in a divorce? The children.
- Who's life is most negatively affected by it? The children.

Our society favors the women in court. When, in theory, is good - care for the women and children. But in practice, demoralizes fatherhood and the family and elevates even guilty women.

Here's the clincher...not any reason, only one reason...adultery
But even then, God still desires restoration, if possible. If repentance occurs.
Forgiveness and love can bear it all.
But God understands how deep of a wound that is.

*Every thing, every relationship has an association
Can you ever unsee it? Not think about it?
Forgiving is one thing. Forgetting is another.*

Why does someone who marries a divorced woman committing adultery? Because her husband divorced her for a reason God doesn't accept.
They're not legally married anymore.
But God doesn't care. They're still married in his eyes if adultery didn't happen.

“What God has joined together let man not separate”

So what's the resolution? Restoration.

God desires restoration, if possible.

It's a whole 'nother study. (Remember your 1 Cor 7 homework!)

:10-12

Oh, the disciples!

Lord Jesus, if we can't get a divorce for anything but adultery, we'd rather not have gotten married!

Talk about hardness of heart!

Eunuch - not a word in our society, or is it

Bed keeper

“An emasculated man”

Tragic idea ... who better to guard the women than a man who never went through puberty and doesn't have all of his functionality

Ethiopian eunuch. Eunuch's couldn't go into the temple to worship Deut 23

Jesus says 3 types

- From birth/the womb (birth defect)
- Made by men (boys choir in the old days, slaves intended for the purposes above)
- Eunuch by choice - for God's kingdom (1 Cor 7 homework) Paul's choice

Jesus in a sense, agrees with them. Celibacy is good, when done for the kingdom.

But only if it's truly a calling.

When one is forced to be celibate it leads to all sorts of perversion (catholic church)

The natural desire is a gift

And celibacy is also a gift.

Whatever your gift is, accept it. Don't just get married to the first person you see. But also don't count it out that God might have something better, and even more fruitful for you, than marriage. Maybe for a season. Maybe for life.

Remember, it's all about Jesus and us, the church. We are his bride. He is our groom.

gender, natural affection, marriage, and calling are all a picture of His love for us.

If you can accept it.