

Matthew 19:1-12

Jesus Teaches about Divorce

- ◆ When Jesus finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the territory of Judea on the other side of the Jordan River. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees came to him and tried to trap him by asking, “Does our Law allow a man to divorce his wife for whatever reason he wishes?” Jesus answered, “Haven't you read the scripture that says that in the beginning the Creator made people male and female? And God said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.’ So they are no longer two, but one. No human being must separate, then, what God has joined together.” The Pharisees asked him, “Why, then, did Moses give the law for a man to hand his wife a divorce notice and send her away?” Jesus answered, “Moses gave you permission to divorce your wives because you are so hard to teach. But it was not like that at the time of creation. I tell you, then, that any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, commits adultery if he marries some other woman.” His disciples said to him, “If this is how it is between a man and his wife, it is better not to marry.” Jesus answered, “This teaching does not apply to everyone, but only to those to whom God has given it. For there are different reasons why men cannot marry: some, because they were born that way; others, because men made them that way; and others do not marry for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven. Let him who can accept this teaching do so.”
- ◆ Marriage is a beautiful union that joins a man and woman into one and it is not supposed to be broken. This is how marriage was created. Later Moses passed the law that permitted divorce, the reason for that law was because humans were hard to teach.
- ◆ Now Christ gave a new law about divorce, a lady is only to be divorced for her unfaithfulness. Anything apart from that will result in adultery if the man remarries. Adultery is a sin, the wages of sin is death and in the end we'll be judged accordingly for the sin.