

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 19 v. 1-10

Jesus departs Galilee for Judea continuing to heal people and perform miracles when the Pharisees come back to test Him again. (v. 1-3)

Why is it that the Pharisees would choose this time to test Jesus again? _____

- With every day that Jesus and the disciples continue to spread the Gospel, the larger the number of followers and believers grows.
 - It is important to note the hardness of the Pharisees heart here. Instead of taking the continued opportunity to follow Christ, they continuously try to move their own agenda forward.

What topic do the Pharisees come forth to test Jesus about? _____

- What about divorce are the Pharisees questioning Jesus about here? _____
 - The Pharisees aren't asking if people who follow God are ABLE (or allowed) to divorce, but instead are asking if people can divorce for ANY reason at all.
- Where in the Bible can we find the answer to this question? Read Deuteronomy 24:1.
 - The grounds for divorce of a man from a woman is only under the ground of "uncleanness" or "indecent" (i.e. sexual immorality).
 - In 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 Paul also explains when a divorce is "acceptable".
What is important to note in this passage? _____
 - Even though a believer and unbeliever can divorce, it is only "acceptable" if the unbeliever is the one that chooses to leave.

In response to the Pharisees' question, Jesus explains how marriage was designed to be to the Pharisees. (v. 4-6)

What is Jesus response to the Pharisees' question? _____ (v. 4-5)

- Read Genesis 2:23-24. How was marriage designed to operate from the beginning of mankind? _____
 - It is NOT in God's design for marriages to end in divorce. Divorce is a byproduct of one form of sin or another.
- What two people are designed to be a part of a marriage? _____
 - Jesus clearly states here that a marriage is between a Male (singular) and a Female (singular). Anything outside of this goes against the marriage that God designed.
- What does it mean for something to become One flesh? _____
 - Have you ever known someone that got a skin graft? Despite that flesh not originally belonging to the person it ends up on, the skin becomes a part of that person. In the same way, when people are married, despite being separate individuals they are One with each other.

Outside of a man and a woman, who else is a part of a marriage? _____ (v. 6)

- In order for a believer to have a proper marriage, God MUST be a part of it.

The Pharisees then try to “trick” Jesus by asking Him why Moses allowed the people a certificate of divorce. (v. 7-10)

Do you think the Pharisees understood Jesus reference back to Genesis 2? If so, why would they appeal to the actions of Moses? _____ (v. 7)

- The Pharisees are finding themselves in a spot many people find themselves in today. Despite knowing what God’s design and purpose is, they are trying to justify the actions that go against God.
 - What do you notice about the Pharisees’ word choice in verse 7 compared to what Jesus says in verse 8? _____
 - The Pharisees are trying to say that Moses commanded the people to divorce their wives. What does Deuteronomy 24:1 say?

What grounds does Jesus establish that is allowed for believers to divorce?

_____ (v. 9)

- Under the grounds of sexual immorality alone is divorce allowed. Any other reason of divorce is not permitted.
 - The strictness of the covenant of marriage doesn’t end here. If someone marries someone who has been divorced, they too are then considered to be sinful and committing adultery.

What is the response of the disciples to the strictness that Jesus displays in verse 9?

- The disciples are even shocked at the severity of Jesus’ words here, and understanding the application of this lesson state that it is better for one or both of the parties to remain unmarried at all.