

# MESSAGE NOTES

May 7, 2017

*The Life Of Christ: Divorce*  
Luke 16:18; Matthew 19:1-9  
Pastor Jeff Nelsen

- In Jesus' day, people are \_\_\_\_\_ "loopholes." Matt 5:17-20
- Jesus repeatedly brings people back to the state of their \_\_\_\_\_.

Some Pharisees came to Him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" **Matthew 19:3**

## JESUS' TEACHING ON DIVORCE

- He's \_\_\_\_\_ with a loaded \_\_\_\_\_. Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Mark 6:17-29
- Jesus stands by God's \_\_\_\_\_ intent: \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 19:4-6
- To marry is to \_\_\_\_\_, cleave & become \_\_\_\_\_. Gen 1:27; 2:24
- *Cleave* = make a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ of absolute faithfulness.
- God meant marriage to be a relationship \_\_\_\_\_. Mal 2:13-16
- In certain cases \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ commands divorce.
- He cites \_\_\_\_\_ as a basis for divorce. Matt 5:32; 19:9
- Jesus traces divorce back to \_\_\_\_\_. Gen 2:23; 3:12; Heb 3:12-15

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning." **Matthew 19:8**

## OTHER BIBLICAL COUNSEL ON DIVORCE

- God permits divorce in cases of \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor 7:10-16; 1 Tim 5:8
- Oneness & reconciliation in marriage takes \_\_\_\_\_. Rom 12:18; 1 Cor 7:3-5
- Jesus can forgive, restore & give life \_\_\_\_\_ divorce. John 4:4-41; 8:11
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to give us a \_\_\_\_\_ & responsive \_\_\_\_\_. Ezek 36:26

## The 3 R's

(adapted from counsel offered by Bill Hybels)

To heal from divorce or before considering remarriage, there needs to be...

- 1) **Repentance.** Even if your divorce was mostly your former spouse's fault, at some point, you have to own your part in the demise of the marriage. Maybe it was because of a bad selection process, a maturity issue, etc. Your share of the fault may be 2% or 82%, but a mature response is admitting that you contributed in part to the demise. And in order to move forward, you have to own this, confess your part and ask God to cleanse, forgive and heal you. He gives grace to the humble.
- 2) **Reconciliation.** This doesn't necessarily mean trusting or having close contact with your former spouse, but it does mean letting go of bitterness by refusing to speak destructively of your former spouse. It's means seeking forgiveness and making restitution if necessary where you were at fault. It's hard work, often very hard work, but at some point the hostility stuff must be dealt with courageously and honestly. People who have been willing to do this come out free on the other side. And by being humble, they become useable in God's hands. As far as is possible with you, seek to be at peace with your former spouse.
- 3) **Remaining unmarried for a time.** Staying single for a long enough period of time that you don't miss what the Lord wants to teach you from your first marriage. If you fail to do this, you will bring a lot of unhealthy baggage into your next marriage. This isn't easy to hear, but it's necessary to ensure that you step into marriage healthy and with the right heart.

### Helpful books on Marriage

*The Meaning Of Marriage* by Tim & Kathy Keller  
*Sacred Marriage* by Gary Chapman  
*Love & Respect* by Emerson Eggerichs  
*Fit To Be Tied* by Bill & Lynne Hybels  
*The Love Dare* by Stephen Kendrick