

- **What God Has Joined - Part 3**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday June 24, 2018

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- **Read the Passage: Matthew 19:1-12**

- ▼ **Understand the historical context and the relevant scriptures.**

- ▶ **Remember - you're eavesdropping!**

- ▼ **Culture**

- ▶ Agricultural society; Patriarchal society

- Customs: Bride-price (mohar); Dowery (ketubah); certificate of divorce established freedom to remarry

- ▼ Resources:

- <http://divorce-remarriage.com/>
- "Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible" by David Instone-Brewer
- "Divorce and Remarriage in the Church" by David Intone-Brewer

- ▼ **Understand precisely both the question and Jesus' response.**

- They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

- The phrase "any and every reason" (also translated "any cause") is a direct reference to Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

- ▼ In Jesus' day there were two main rabbinical schools of thought regarding divorce.

- Rabbi Shammai:

The phrase "something indecent" (literally a "cause of nakedness") in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 means adultery. This was the traditional understanding.

- Rabbi Hillel:

The phrase "something indecent" (literally a "cause of nakedness") in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 means something (i.e. anything) OR adultery. This was a novel interpretation.

- BOTH rabbinical traditions agreed on divorce grounds based on Exodus 21:7-11.

- The questions that Jesus was asked was directly related to the debate between the two rabbinical schools. Jesus' response affirmed the Shammaite interpretation.

- Jesus WAS NOT asked about Exodus 21 grounds for divorce that both sides agreed on.

- ▼ **Understand God's intention for marriage and view of divorce.**

- Jesus refers the Pharisees back to God's original plan for marriage - Genesis 2:18-25
- ▼ Biblical grounds for divorce: breaking marriage vows.
 - Vows: Faithfulness, Food, Clothing, Marital rights - Exodus 21:7-11
 - Breaking marriage vows with hardness of heart: Neglect, Abuse, Adultery
- ▼ Relevant Bible passages:
 - Marriage: Genesis 2:18-25; Deuteronomy 20:1-9; Deuteronomy 24:5; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-8
 - Divorce: Exodus 21:7-11; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Malachi 2:10-16 (ESV); 1 Corinthians 7
- ▼ **Further thoughts:**
 - Humans were made in God's image - thus they (male and female together) represent him to the created world.
 - Just as life flows out of God's love relationship within the divine community, so men and women coming together results in life.
 - Although humans can reproduce in the same way that animals do, God's intention is for them to produce new life in the context of life commitment.
 - ▼ The life commitment of a man to a woman is often expressed in a wedding ceremony, but it's foundation is in words that express covenant - Genesis 2:23-24 "This is now bone of my bones . . ."
 - This ideal is the coming together of two people who are exclusively for each other.
 - How do previous sexual partners impact this ideal?
 - What about sexual compatibility?
 - Jesus honored singleness in a way that previous teachers hadn't.
- ▼ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**
 - What did these Pharisees think marriage was for?
 - What does our culture think marriage and sex are for?
 - ▼ What does the Bible teach about marriage and sex?
 - Who created sex?
 - Who created marriage? - Genesis 2:18-25
 - What genders did God intend for marriage? - Genesis 2:18-25
 - How long does God intend marriage to last?
 - What does marriage illustrate? - Ephesians 5:21-33
 - How should husbands and wives treat each other?