**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr April 16, 2023**

**Jesus Teaches On Adultery And Divorce**

Matthew 5:27-32

**Key Truth:** As Disciples, we are called to imitate Jesus in our lifestyles, thoughts, and attitudes. We are also to live lives that others can imitate.

**Jesus Emphasizes Holiness From Within:**

1. Jesus calls His disciples to a higher standard of sexual purity

 and fidelity in marriage.

2. Jesus is teaching that adultery is not confined to a physical

 act, but an affection of the heart.

3. Jesus tells us to be seriously committed to protecting our

 sexual purity.

**Jesus Raises The Standard In Marriage:**

1. Jesus teaches that what He says about marriage overrules

 what the culture says. Deuteronomy 24:1

2. Jesus teaches that marriage is a covenant not a contract.

 Malachi 2:13-16

3. Jesus teaches that divorce shouldn’t be entered into casually.

4. Jesus taught there are some legitimate and illegitimate

 divorces in the eyes of God.

**What We Learn:**

1. What we look at and watch can have a detrimental effect on

 our heart.

2. We must be intentional to avoid lustful thoughts and actions.

3. We must commit to faithfulness in our marriage.

 4. Don’t let the world influence your marriage, let God’s Word

 define your marriage.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray for the marriages in our church. Pray for people who are struggling with sexual sins or the temptation to divorce, that they would find freedom in Jesus Christ.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

As a kid, what was most influential in your understanding of sex and marriage? How influential were your parents and the church in these early conversations?

Read Proverbs 5:15-20: What is the message of this passage about sexual purity?

Why was the analogy of drawing water from your own well powerful in that society? What would be a comparable metaphor for sexual purity today?

Read Genesis 2:18-24: Why do you think God referred to Eve as a “helper” in verse 18? What does this tell us about the purpose of marriage in God’s kingdom?

How would you characterize the relationship between Adam and Eve? What makes this kind of fellowship possible?

If you have been through a divorce, how have you seen God redeem that pain of that experience for His glory?

What does it look like to trust Jesus with your marriage? If you are unmarried and wish to be, how can you trust God’s plan for your life? If you are married, how can you lean on Jesus to sustain your marriage?

Read Ephesians 2:4-5: Even if someone has been divorced it’s important to remember that God’s love and mercy remains regardless of what we’ve done. Take a moment to thank God for His great mercy and love for you!