**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. December 31, 2023**

**Jesus Teaches On Marriage And Divorce**

Matthew 19:1-12

**Key Truth:** Divorce is an unfortunate reality in marriages. However, Jesus calls His disciples to hold marriage in high honor.

**The Controversial Question Regarding Divorce:**

1. The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus into a theological and

 political debate that would affect His popularity.

**Jesus Gives The Controversial Answer Regarding Marriage:**

1. God is the creator of Marriage therefore, He gets to determine

 how it functions.

2. Jesus speaks on God’s original intent of marriage.

 A. Marriage is between a man and a woman.

 B. Marriage is a lifelong covenantal relationship.

 C. Divorce is never an option but an exception.

3. Jesus only permitted divorce due to sexual unfaithfulness in a

 marriage.

**Jesus Had To Correct His Disciples’ View Of Marriage:**

1. The disciples interpreted Jesus’ answer as making marriage

 more of a burden to endure rather than a blessing to enjoy.

2. They saw singleness as a way to enjoy the sexual benefits of

 marriage without the commitment that God demands.

 Hebrews 13:4

3. Singleness is a gift that requires commitment and Divine

 help.

 A. To remain single is to live a celibate life committed to the

 advancement of Jesus Kingdom. 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 6-9

**What We Learn:**

1. Marriage is a beautiful gift from God to humanity.
Proverbs 18:22

2. Singles are not second-class Christians but are fully whole

 members of the family.

3. There are times where divorce is permitted after we have

 exhausted all avenues of reconciliation. 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for His grace, mercy, and forgiveness that sustains us in our brokenness. Ask Jesus to help you hold marriages and singleness in high honor. If you are going through a divorce, seek wise counsel from mature believers.

**Food For Thought:**

It is common in a traditional wedding vow to promise to love, honor, and respect one another. What does it mean to truly honor someone or something? How does that play out in daily life? Give examples of behavior that honor someone else.

Read Hebrews 13:4. What does it mean that marriage should be held in honor? What are some things that dishonor marriage?

Read Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 2:23-24. Based upon these verses, what can we deduce marriage to be?

How did Jesus link these two ideas together in Matthew 19:4-6?

What about God’s design of marriage limits the blessing to people of complementary genders?

Furthermore, what significance does marriage have on our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ?