

MDR

# I. Why Study MDR?

- Evil influences confuse many people
  - Society
  - Peers
  - Family
- Unmarried people must learn to choose with care: agree with NT
- Married people often get tired and look for a way out
- Even good marriages could be stronger

I. Why Study MDR?

II. What Does Jesus Say?

# Matthew 19 (Q & A)

3: issue is not about right to divorce, but on what grounds.

- *Testing Him* (not sincere). Minefield.
  - Controversy among scholars:  
“for just any reason?”
  - Shammai – unchastity
  - Hillel – spoiled supper...loud talk
    - Akiba – find another fairer...
    - Josephus – whatsoever cause...

# Matthew 19

3: issue is not about right to divorce, but on what grounds.

- Controversy among scholars: *for just any reason?*
- Contradiction of scripture: if Lord makes light of Dt.24... or condemns divorce, He will lose support of many

# Matthew 19

3: issue is not about right to divorce, but on what grounds.

- Controversy among scholars: *for just any reason?*
- Contradiction of scripture: if Lord makes light of Dt.24...or condemns divorce...
- Condemnation by sinners: is it lawful?  
(14:4)
- Jesus agrees with no 'scholar'; points them to scripture

# Matthew 19

4: Jesus cites Gn.1:27 – creation ordinance.

- *Have you not read...?*
- *At the beginning...*
- *Male and female...*

“If it had been His will that he should put this one away and bring in another, when he had made one man, He would have formed many women” (Chrysostom).



# Matthew 19

5: Jesus cites Gn.2:24 – creation ordinance.

- Gn.1-2 is continuous history
  - Leave father and mother
  - Joined to wife (unity of soul; sympathy, interest, purpose)
    - Both verbs: strong, decisive action
  - Two become one flesh

No longer two singles: married oneness

# Matthew 19

6: *so then* [for this reason]: no longer what they were (two separate individuals)

- *Now bound in closest relationship*
- *Therefore what* [not whom; neuter] *God joined* [with + yoke] – institutes marriage
  - God's cement / marriage bond / not casual
- *Let not man separate*: what God unites, man divides in frivolous divorce
  1. Unnatural
  2. Rebellion against God's law

# Matthew 19

7: they appeal to Moses for support

[Quote Scripture, but misapply it]

- Command: wrong word. Moses *permitted* (v.8)
- Certificate: legally drawn up, witnessed, and served made it all right

Laws dealing with murder  
did not legalize murder

# Matthew 19

8: hardness [Israel rebelled against God]

- Permitted (allowed): corrects “command” (v.7). Ac.26:1
  - Sin could be so vile that divorce was the lesser of two evils

*It's one thing to say, "If you don't want your wife, go ahead and divorce."*

*It's another thing to say, "If you believe you have good reason to reject her, you must at least provide her a bill of divorce, but you'd better be sure; once you divorce, you can't get her back!"*

# Matthew 19

8: hardness [Israel rebelled against God]

- From the beginning it was not so [has not been so continuously from beginning to present]
  - Frivolous divorce is a breakdown of God's original plan
  - No polygamy in paradise. Gn.4:19

# Matthew 19

9: only one lawful divorce: except for fornication

- 5:32, divorced wife is in adultery; 19:9, husband's remarriage...
- Mk.10:12, same rules apply to women

# Matthew 19

10: His teaching separated Him from Pharisees (and disciples)

11: 'cannot receive this saying'

- NOT v.9
- Refers to disciples' conclusion (v.10)

12: three kinds of eunuchs...

1. congenital
2. forced
3. voluntary

I. Why Study MDR?

II. What Does Jesus Say?

III. So What?



# What to learn from these things?

1. Some look for loopholes... Hb.13:4
2. Marriage and family are basis of healthy society and church. Malachi 2 –
  - a. 13-16, consequences
  - b. 10, 11, 14-16, treacherously / faithless

# What to learn from these things?

1. Some look for loopholes... Hb.13:4.
2. Marriage and family are basis of healthy society and church.
3. Horrible marriages are common

- “Few men have wedded their sweethearts ...but have come home by Weeping Cross and ere long repented their bargain.”

[Weeping Cross (proverbial) for grievous disappointment]

- “And so they were married—to be the more together—And found they were never again so much together, Divided by the morning tea, By the evening paper, By children and tradesmen’s bills.”

- “Every man plays the fool once in his life, but to marry is playing the fool all one’s life long.”

- “Marriage may be compared to a cage: the birds outside despair to get in and those within despair to get out.”
- Compare –
  - Big cities: lawyer’s ad on bus bench
  - Early 70’s: divorce reform movement
  - Living together before marriage results in separations / divorce in greater numbers than those who marry first

# What to learn from these things?

1. Some look for loopholes... Hb.13:4.
2. Marriage and family are basis of healthy society and church
3. Horrible marriages are common
4. Cause of horrible marriages:
  - Couples omit God. Ep.5 / Tit.2
  - Constructive maintenance
  - Neglect kills

# What to learn from these things?

1. Some look for loopholes... Hb.13:4.
2. Marriage and family are basis of healthy society and church
3. Horrible marriages are common
4. Cause of horrible marriages
5. Happy marriages don't just happen
  - Ruth – Boaz . . . Abigail – Nabal





GOD

husband

wife

# Good marriage requires preparation

1. Biblical foundation. Gn.2
2. Diligent determination. Mal.2
3. Vigilant selection. Mt.19
4. Constant patience and perspiration. Ep.5