

Faithfulness in Marriage & Speech

Appetizer: There is almost no unhappiness so painful as that of an unhappy marriage. And there is almost no tragedy as great as when a relationship God meant for love and fulfillment degenerates into a non-relationship of bitterness, discord and despair.

Discussion: What reasons can you give for the breakup of marriages?

Main Course: Read Matthew 5:31-37; 19:3-9.

1. How does Jesus' statements contrast with the questions he was asked?
2. Jesus points back to Genesis. What does this teach us about God's original design for marriage (19:4-6)?
3. How can you prepare for a marriage that meets God's original design?
4. The Pharisees refer to Moses' instructions about divorce as a "command" (v. 7). What does Jesus' reply teach us about divorce (v. 8)?
5. In what ways might divorce reveal the hardness of our hearts?
6. What similarities do 19:9 and 5:31-32 have and how do these verses stress the seriousness of divorce?
7. How does Jesus' teaching contrast with today's views concerning marriage and divorce?
8. Read Matthew 5:33-37. How might the issue of oaths and vows be connected to the topic of marriage and divorce?
9. Why is Jesus opposed to oaths? Does this mean, for example, that we should refuse to give evidence under oath in a court of law? Explain.
10. Why should oaths be unnecessary for Jesus' followers?

Dessert: In the discussion question we were asked for reasons why marriages break up. Now we are asked for suggestions to make strong marriages.