

What Must I Do?
Sermon Series
April 14, 2024
Matthew 19:1-15



Sermon Listening & Discussion Guide

1. No _____ what
2. Divorce isn't an _____
3. You have to _____!
4. Go and sin _____

Answers: 1. matter 2. option 3. forgive 4. no more

GETTING STARTED

1. Has your life ever been touched by divorce? Divorce is painful for both adults and kids, yet somehow it's touched most of us in some way. Recognizing there are people in the room with deep wounds from divorce so speak with grace, what lasting impact have you experienced from yours or your parent's divorce?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Jesus feels your heart. He knows divorce is painful. Divorce was prevalent in Jesus' day too. The marriage was so loose a man could divorce his wife for any and every reason, even if he was just tired of her. A lot of deep wounds were happening.

Read Matthew 19:1-12

- a. In verses 4-6, what was God's design for marriage?
- b. Describe the phrases "hold fast" and "become one" as it relates to the bond God creates between husband and wife.
- c. Given the two are bound together in one flesh, describe why divorce is so painful both for husband and wife as well as the kids.
- d. In verses 7-9, what was the one reason Moses (directed by God) allowed divorce?
- e. How does a hard heart affect a marriage relationship (think unforgiveness, insensitivity, etc).

We live in a broken world as broken people. Because of abuse, adultery, hard hearts, and because we can't force the other to stay committed, we are not condemned by God if we get divorced. He loves, forgives, and restores.

MAKING IT APPLICABLE

3. Marriage is a lifetime commitment by God's design. If you were counseling a young couple about what to consider before getting married what would you say given God's design for marriage?
4. If a married couple are doing ok but never made that lifetime, no matter what, commitment to each other, what would you advise them to do? Why?
5. Read Colossians 3:5-17. If a marriage is struggling, given this passage, how would you advise a couple in softening hard hearts.
6. Read Psalm 31:7, Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 43:1-4. If one is hurting from a divorce, given this passage, what encouragement would you give them to bring healing?