

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Honor Marriage and Children

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Matthew 19:1–15

Theme: Honor the King by honoring marriage and children.

Introduction: Divorce is one of the most painful and difficult things in this world. Try as our culture may to normalize it, it tears deeper than many people are willing to concede. However, despite its painful nature, Christians cannot walk around it. Jesus speaks directly and truthfully about this topic so that all of his disciples would be trained in the sweet grace of obedience. The topics of marriage and children are important because they are rooted in creation, and modern culture is bent on destroying what God has deemed good.

Matthew 19:1–15 can be divided into three sections:

1. Restoring marriage (1–9)

- Jesus and his disciples continue to head south toward Jerusalem, and as they are on their way Jesus heals many.
- Pharisees then come up to Jesus and ask about divorce, and Jesus uses the interaction to teach his disciples.
- The Pharisees were bringing a case-law from Deut. 24:1–4 to Jesus, but he corrected their thinking by taking them to creation (Gen. 2:24) and stating that no one should tear apart what God has brought together.
- Moses did not command divorce, but allowed for it in cases of adultery. Far from commanding divorce, the gospel of Christ commands forgiveness (cf. Matt. 18).
- God is glorified by a marriage that endures.

2. Concerning eunuchs (10–12)

- Jesus goes from discussing marriage to discussing eunuchs, a population of people who in ancient times had no choice to marry.
- Jesus lists three types of eunuchs:
 - *Eunuchs from birth*—those born with a disabling condition preventing them from marriage
 - *Eunuchs made by men*—those subjected to singleness by no decision of their own (ex., a single person who desires to marry but has remained single)
 - *Eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs*—a chosen path of singleness
- For all Christians everywhere, marriage to the Bridegroom is coming.

3. Dignifying children (13–15)

- The disciples assumed the role of “bouncer” for Jesus, pushing away children who were being brought to him.
- However, Jesus asks for the children to come to him and teaches his disciples that children belong in the kingdom of heaven.
- Children must be brought to the Lord, and everyone has a role to play in this effort.

Questions:

1. How does modern culture dishonor marriage and children?
2. How does a biblical understanding of marriage speak to singleness? How does it speak to children/childrearing?
3. What does it look like for you to honor marriage and children in your God-ordained roles (husband, wife, father, mother, uncle, aunt, etc)?