

Jesus' Teaching on Marriage

Matthew 19:1-15

Key Verse: 19:6,14

by Steve Stasinos

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

1. Read verses 1-2. Where did Jesus go after he had finished talking with his disciples about God's grace and forgiveness? Why did large crowds follow him? How did he serve them? What can we learn here about Jesus?
2. Read verses 3-6. What question did some Pharisees ask him? What was the motive behind the Pharisees' question? In what way did this question test Jesus? (7)
3. What is the basis of Jesus' teaching? (4-5) How did God design human beings for marriage? What commitment must one make in marriage? What is the mystery in marriage that only God can know? (5-6) (Eph 5:30-32) What does Jesus' teaching imply about the purpose of sex? What did Jesus imply about divorce? (6)
4. Read verses 7-9. How did the Pharisees imply that Jesus' teachings were against Moses' law? What did Jesus teach about divorce? Why did Moses permit divorce? Did he encourage it? Why did he command that a certificate of divorce be given?
5. What was the loop-hole God left in the absolute law of marriage? Why is sexual immorality such a great sin?
6. Read verses 10-12. What was the disciples' response to Jesus' teaching about marriage and divorce? What does this show about them? What does Jesus say about marriage? What different reasons do people have for not marrying? Why is it better, in most cases, to marry?
7. Read verses 13-15. What shows that marriage is not an end in itself? (see Malachi 2:15) What should be the fruit of marriage? Why did parents bring their children to Jesus? How does this show hope and vision in a family? How did the disciples react? Why? What did Jesus teach and do? (14-15) What does this mean? (Compare 18:1-6)