

**Matthew – Having a Kingdom Heart**  
A Gut Honest Look at Marriage and Divorce  
**Pastor Bill Lenz**  
February 11 & 12, 2012

Overview

**Matthew 19:1-12**

Jesus was approached by some Pharisees trying to test Him. They asked Him if it is ever lawful for a man to divorce his wife. Jesus' answer was to quote from Genesis about the way it was meant to be in the first place, (*Idealistic*).

In response to His statement, they asked another question about why Moses commanded a man to give a certificate of divorce, (Deuteronomy 24:1). Jesus said Moses "permitted" but never commanded and in that case it was because of the hardness of hearts that he permitted it. He also stated that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another commits adultery, (*Realistic*). (Matthew 19:9) So here are some topics we cover:

The *Idealistic* and the *Realistic* about marriage and divorce:

- What are biblical grounds for divorce?
- What are common reasons people give today for divorce?
- Why did God say that He hates divorce?
- What else does God hate besides divorce?
- Is divorce the unforgiveable sin?
- What was marriage meant to be in the first place and how can all who are married move toward that by the Grace of God?

**NOTE:** There will be a special gathering on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 PM to address the issue of marriage and divorce. There will be testimonies as well as a panel of Christ The Rock Leaders to discuss related issues and field questions.

**Scriptures Used**

1. Matthew 19:1-3
2. Deuteronomy 24:1
3. Matthew 19:4-6

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4. Titus 1:11-14
5. Matthew 19:7-9
6. 1Corinthians 7:15
7. 1Corinthians 7:28b
8. Malachi 2:16a
9. Malachi 2:15,16b

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How has your life been touched or affected by divorce?
2. What do you think it was like for Adam and Eve before the fall? Just imagine.
3. Do you believe that Jesus died and rose to help push back the effects of the fall and to help your marriage move toward the ideal?
4. What is the main culprit in marriage and what is the solution?
5. What might God hate besides divorce?
6. Are you willing to fight FOR your marriage?

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