

## 1. Connect

**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

## 2. LifeJournal

As we continue to move together as a church in His Word, last Sunday we were in Mt. 19:1-15. Share your SOAP application or prayer with your group. \*Next week, pay special attention to Mt. 21:23-32 as we will be discussing this passage together.

## 3. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

This week, our message was from Matthew 5:31-32, & Matthew 19:1-12. Read the passage and dive into the questions below.

### Matthew 5:31-32 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### Matthew 19:1-12 (NIV)

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. <sup>2</sup> Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

<sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' <sup>v</sup> <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>7</sup> "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

<sup>10</sup> The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

<sup>11</sup> Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. <sup>12</sup> For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

1. What strikes you about Jesus’ teaching about marriage and divorce in these passages?
2. Jesus responds to the Pharisee’s question about divorce by reframing into a discussion about marriage being God’s idea and “let no one separate.” In many ways, the conversation about marriage then and in our culture today has been taken out of God’s domain. What kind of fruits has come from this?
3. Marriage has become increasingly unpopular<sup>1</sup> and is challenging. It has then (19:10), and it seems to be the case now, and yet, Jesus still calls certain people into it (19:11-12). Pastor Albert states the standard is high and it cannot be done without the power of Christ. In what ways can we pray for marriage or even our own marriage to thrive?

#### 4. Apply: Next Faithful Step

Marriage is incredibly beautiful and fruitful in His domain, and yet, it can also be challenging. Jesus has the power to redeem and restore all things.

1. Pastor Albert describes three ways we can take care of marriage, 1) walk in the Spirit, 2) walk in community/accountability, and 3) walk in counsel. Even if you are not married, which of these are you drawn to and want to lean into more?
2. Divorce is clearly a challenging and complex subject that touches people at a deep level. However, Jesus’ teaching is best for us. Even if this has become a hurt in our lives, Jesus heals and restores. Take a moment to pray for marriages on the verge of divorce and families impacted by divorce.

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<sup>1</sup> [Pew Research Center](#) statistics.

## 5. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

\*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.

