

Untouchables Sermon Series Part #3 – Divorce

Series Summary

Pornography, Abortion, Divorce, Homosexuality... Topics that are too hot for many churches to handle. We will explore some of the most important social and moral issues of our time and bring them into the light of God's Word so that Christians will know how to respond to some of the most controversial topics facing our society today!

Big Idea

The **Big Idea** for this sermon is: ***Marriage is Sacred Gift from God and a Covenant With God.*** Marriage is gift that has been created by God and given to mankind. The core element of marriage that makes it stand out above all other institutions in the world is that it is a covenant that is not merely hinged on papers that you sign but rather upon the relationship that you promise and enter into with both your spouse and God.

Understanding How Jesus Dealt With Divorce

Step #1 – He Recognized the Opposition

- **Deuteronomy 24:1** – If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house...
- **Majority of Opinion of the Day – School of Hillel**
- **Key Point** – The point that is made here is that in **Matthew 19:1-9**, the Pharisees came to test Jesus or a better term used here could be that they came to trap Jesus. Why? Because many of the Pharisees were not honoring God's design of marriage and keeping the covenant with Him. Jesus instantly was aware of the opposition that He faced and knew that this was merely a trap so He redirected the question to God's original plan for marriage!

Step #2 – He Redirects the People to the Covenant

- **Genesis 2:23** – The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."
- **Malachi 2:13-14** – Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.
- **Marriage is a Covenant**
- **Key Point** – Jesus masterfully redirects the Pharisees to the Word of God thus dealing with the word of man. He takes the opportunity to remind and teach all those gathered to Him that God's original plan and His desire for marriage is that it will be a life-long commitment not a meaningless certificate that you sign or half-hearted commitment that was spoken. This is a serious decision because you are making a covenant with God who is the designer of this covenant. Breaking this covenant is obviously sinning against God.

Step #3 – He Points Out: God's Desire is NOT Divorce

- **Malachi 2:16** – “I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel, “and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.
- **Divorce – Permitted vs. Promoted**
- **Key Point** – The final point that we observe is that Jesus points out to the Pharisees that Moses did not command a certificate of divorce but permitted because of their hardness of hearts or due to their sinful nature. God hates divorce, He never commands divorce but does permit it when the sinful nature of man destroys and taints what He has created to be pure and holy.

Questions to Consider

1. How does divorce affect the average American family?
2. What can you strengthen your marriage today or help strengthen the marriages of those around you?

Memory Verse

Matthew 19:5 – 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’?

Big Challenge

- (1) Renew your covenant with God today. Humble yourself before Him and confess your sins.
- (2) Study the Word of God with regard to the covenant of marriage and allow God to show you how you could strengthen your marriage by following His design.

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