

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF: IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING!

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF OF DIVORCE

MATTHEW 19:3-19; MARK 10:1-12



The Heart of the Matter

Marriage and divorce have always been subjects of enormous interest and great controversy. It was so in Jesus's day, it is so in our day, and it will be so in days to come. It is safe to say that virtually no one who reads the words *marriage* and *divorce* is "neutral" on these subjects. To make matters more complicated, in a time when "self-fulfillment" and "self-actualization" are trump cards, there's no limit to what people will say they believe or why they believe it. Strong opinions on all sides abound. Conspicuous by its absence is a clear, concise declaration of what Jesus taught on these controversial subjects. Because our ultimate goal as Christians is neither self-fulfillment nor self-actualization but obedience to the revealed Word of God, it is terribly important that we understand our Savior's instructions and align our lives to His Word, regardless of who agrees or disagrees or what others teach.



Discovering the Way

1. Helpful Perspectives on These Subjects

In our day, opinions are numerous and varied. In Moses's day, divorce was restricted to immorality. In Jesus's day, two schools of thought governed the issue of divorce.

2. Careful Analysis of Scripture (Mark 10:1-12)

The setting was the region of Perea, "beyond the Jordan" (Mark 10:1). The dialogue was between Jesus and the Pharisees (10:2-9). The discussion was between Jesus and the disciples (10:10-12).



Starting Your Journey

Jesus related some hard-to-hear conclusions that call for a thoughtful response. First, don't let yourself form opinions based on the climate of our culture. Second, restrain yourself from being self-righteous, judgmental, and legalistic. Third, allow yourself to leave room for God's grace to rescue some victims not specifically addressed in Scripture.



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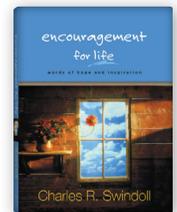


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