

Feb 19/23 - Marriage and Divorce Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9

1. Reflect briefly as a group on our current cultural perspectives on marriage and divorce. What does our culture see as the purpose for marriage? How is divorce approached in our culture?

Read Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9

Into the culture of his day Jesus speaks a word of truth and a word of love. In this study we will explore how his culture would have understood his words and then prayerfully reflect on what word of truth and word of love our hearts need to hear.

A word of truth

2. (vs.3) **Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4a**. What do you think is the heart of this law? In light of their question how were the Pharisees interpreting it?

3. (vs. 4-6) **Read Genesis 2:18-24**. The Christian perspective of marriage arises from these verses that Jesus reaffirms here in Matthew. From these verses what can we say about God's created purpose for marriage? (Be as exhaustive as possible)

4. (vs. 3-4) Why do you think that Jesus points them to this passage in response to their question about the grounds for divorce?

5. (vs. 7 – 8) What pieces of your answer to number three needs to be heard in our culture?

A word of love

6. In the sermon Tim pointed out that Jesus' words revealed deep compassion for women. How do you see his response as sowing the seeds for a radical shift in marriage relationships?

7. With the word of truth that Jesus speaks there is the real danger of feeling abandoned in our pain, judged in our failings, or crushed by an ideal. What loving word of Jesus to we need to hear in each of those possible responses?