



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 9, 2022

Divorce

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:31-32](#)

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

- What makes **marriage valuable**? What makes it so **difficult**?
- To better understand this week’s passage, let’s begin with another time recorded in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus taught about marriage. Read [Matthew 19:3-9](#). At the time of Jesus, one influential Jewish teacher permitted divorce only in extreme cases. Another permitted divorce for any reason. How does this help us **understand the Pharisees’ “test question”**? (3)
- Jesus points us back to [Genesis 1:27](#) and [2:23-24](#). What does this teach us about **God’s design for marriage**? (4-6)
- The Pharisees refer to Moses’ instructions in [Deuteronomy 24:1-4](#) about divorce as a “command” (7). What does **Jesus reply in verse 8 teach us about divorce**?
- How does divorce reveal the **hardness of our hearts**?
- What **similarities** and **differences** do you see between **Jesus teaching in [Matthew 19:9](#) and [5:31-32](#)**?
- How does Jesus teaching **challenge our commonly held views** about marriage and divorce?
- Consider that the One teaching is revealed in Scripture as the **faithful Bridegroom to His Bride, His Church** (i.e. [Revelation 19:6-7, 9](#)). What does that teach us about the **purpose and value of marriage**?
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.

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