

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: Questions on Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 19:1–12

Small Group Questions

Opening Question

Why do you think marriage and divorce are subjects that can be so personal and difficult for people to discuss honestly?

I. The Pharisees' First Question

Matthew 19:1–6

1. What was the Pharisees' purpose in asking Jesus whether it was lawful to divorce a wife “for any cause”?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees brought Jesus into a controversial cultural and theological debate rather than simply asking what Scripture taught?
3. How does Jesus respond to their question? Where does He go to establish His answer?
4. Why is Jesus' question, “**Have you not read?**”, significant?
5. What does this teach us about how Christians should approach difficult issues that are addressed in Scripture?
6. According to Jesus, what are the foundational elements of God's design for marriage?
 - Male and female
 - Leaving father and mother
 - Holding fast to one's spouse
 - Becoming one flesh
 - What God has joined together not being separated
7. What does the picture of being **joined or yoked together** communicate about the nature of marriage?

II. The Pharisees' Second Question

Matthew 19:7–9

1. How did the Pharisees misunderstand Moses' teaching in Deuteronomy 24?
2. What is the difference between **commanding** divorce and **permitting or regulating** divorce because of human sin?
3. According to Jesus, why did Moses allow divorce?

4. What does Jesus mean when He says, **“from the beginning it was not so”**?
5. Why is it important to distinguish between God's original design and the concessions Scripture makes because we live in a fallen world?
6. How can hardness of heart affect a person's relationships, marriage, and willingness to repent?
7. Why do you think Jesus continually brings the conversation back to God's original design rather than allowing the Pharisees to remain focused on finding exceptions?

III. The Disciples' Response

Matthew 19:10–12

1. Why were the disciples surprised by Jesus' teaching on marriage?
2. What does their response reveal about how seriously they understood Jesus' teaching concerning the permanence of marriage?
3. Why is it important for someone considering marriage to understand the seriousness of the commitment before entering it?
4. Jesus acknowledges that singleness is a calling or gift for some people. What does this teach us about the value of both marriage and singleness in the kingdom of God?
5. How can the church avoid treating marriage as the only meaningful or faithful path for every believer?

Walking the King's Road: Application

God's Design

1. Are there areas of your life where you have allowed culture, personal experience, or popular opinion to become the standard rather than Scripture?

What would it look like to return to God's Word and ask, **“What has God said?”**

Marriage

2. If you are married, how are you actively working to strengthen the unity of your marriage?

What is one practical way you can better demonstrate commitment, sacrificial love, or faithfulness to your spouse?

3. If your marriage is difficult right now, what would it look like to bring your struggles honestly before God and seek wise, biblical help?

Past Failure and Forgiveness

4. Is there something in your past involving marriage, divorce, sexual sin, or another area of life that still causes you to believe you are beyond God's grace?

How does the gospel speak to that?

5. Why is it important to remember that divorce and other sins are serious without believing that they are beyond the forgiveness available through Christ?

Repentance and Grace

6. What area of your life is currently out of alignment with God's design?

The appropriate response is not to hide, justify, or harden your heart, but to confess, repent, and come to Christ.

7. According to Hebrews 4:14–16, what confidence can believers have when they come to Jesus with their weakness and failure?

Final Challenge

Wherever you find yourself today—married, divorced, remarried, single, struggling, or recovering from past failure—what is your next step of obedience to Jesus?

The King's Road does not mean pretending we have never failed. **It means bringing our lives into alignment with the King, trusting His forgiveness for the past and His grace for the next step.**

Prayer Time

Pray Through Three Things

1. Thank God for His Design

Thank God that He is the Creator and that His design for life, marriage, and relationships is good—even when it is difficult to understand or follow.

2. Confess and Repent

Ask God to reveal any areas where your heart has become hard or where your life is out of alignment with His Word. Confess those things honestly and ask Him for the grace to repent.

3. Receive Grace and Help

Thank Jesus for His forgiveness and for being a High Priest who understands our weaknesses. Pray for the grace and strength to take the next step of obedience in your relationships and in every area of life.

Prayer Focus

“Lord, help us to trust Your design, repent where our lives are out of alignment with Your Word, and walk forward in the forgiveness, mercy, and grace that You have provided through Jesus Christ.”