

May 3, 2009
Week 32

Marriage and the Kingdom Way

Matthew 19: 1-12

Group or Family Study Guide

1. READ Matthew 19:1-12.
2. Why are the Pharisees so determined to trip Jesus up? Why do they choose this question?
3. Is this a controversial question today? Why or why not?
4. What is God's desire about marriage from the beginning and reiterated by Jesus? (see also Genesis 1:27, 2:24, 5:2, Malachi 3:13-16, 1 Corinthians 6:16-17, Ephesians 5:31-32 Hebrews 13:4)

5. READ Matthew 5:31. If he were questioned about justification for divorce, can you imagine him allowing abuse or abandonment as justifiable reasons for divorce? Why or why not?

6. The disciples conclude that it could be better not to marry. Paul seems to think the same way. Why?

7. Do you have a “gift” for celibacy? If so, how does it free you up? If not, do you see instances when marriage and the pursuit of marriage can be distracting?

8. How might we integrate our kingdom passions with our marital relationships in ways that minimize distraction and the divided mind that Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 7:33-34.

9. How do you feel/think about the restriction in some Christian sects regarding marriage and celibacy in the pastorate or priesthood?

10. Jesus indicated that there won't be marriage in heaven. Why? How does this make you feel?

For the hardcore group:

If you were going to instigate a sweeping renewal movement in American marriages, how would you go about it? What would your purpose, goals and strategies be?