Sermon Reflections

Jesus' Focus on the Family (Part 1)   (Matthew 19:1-15)

Summary: God makes a marriage. Honor and protect the marriages around you. Do not fracture a God-made union. (Jesus turns His focus to earthly relationships, specifically marriage and divorce.)

1. God Makes Each Marriage for Life (vv.1-6)

- When the Pharisees tested Jesus, how did Jesus respond? Why is it important to trust God's word when defining marriage? In what other areas besides marriage do we need to be certain to trust God's word instead of worldly desires or culture?

- Is it a contradiction that marriage is two people who agree and vow together, but Jesus says, "What <u>God</u> has joined together..."? What other situations in scripture clearly point to God's divine plan and power working through mankind for our good? (example: 1 Thess 4:3)

- How does knowing God's divine blessing and will in marriage give purpose, direction, and hope in our personal application of the marriage relationship?

    "It will be of great use to us often to think of our creation, how and by whom, what and for what, we were created."   - Matthew Henry

2. Only Sin Can Break Marriages Apart -- Marriage Should Be Guarded, Uplifted, and Honored (vv. 7-9)

- Jesus defended marriage against the Pharisees and carnal thinking. What ways can we, like the Pharisees, justify sinful actions that are tearing down marriage? Identify external and internal stumbling blocks to marriage.

- Jesus wielded the strength and authority of biblical truth to lift and exalt marriage. What other biblical truths are useful and encouraging in a healthy marriage?

- Jesus warns that sexual immorality can destroy a marriage. In what ways are we taking sexual sin seriously and 'making no occasion for the flesh"? (Rom 13:13-14)

- In what ways can we honor the marriages of others? What part of one-anothering can be specifically applied to strengthen the marriages of others we know? In what ways can married Christians help desirous unmarried Christians prepare for a healthy marriage?