

Concessions of a loving God: Study Notes

Sermon Notes:

Passage: Mark 10:1-12

Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife? two main schools of thought centered around two of its most famous proponents in ancient Israel .

Rabbi Hillel (a lenient and popular view) uncleanness to mean any sort of discretion, even to the point of burning the breakfast

Rabbi Shammai (a strict and unpopular view) *uncleanness* meant sexual immorality

Passage: Deuteronomy 24:1-2

-This law was never God's best. He was working with what he had. Working with a very male dominated society and working with hard hearts.

-We want to know the rules, but once we know the rules, we want to find ways to break the rules, without breaking them. we find loop holes.

Passage: Jeremiah 17:9, Ezekiel 11:19, John 3:3

We as humans have a hard time seeing truth. We have a hard time believing and living it out because of our hearts. Our hearts are sinful, but Jesus wants to birth within us a new heart.

v.6-9. What was God's plan for marriage at the beginning?

The term **joined to his wife** has the idea of *gluing two things together*.

-They were once two separate people that operated independently from each other. Now they are one

Jesus reminded the Pharisees that marriage is spiritually binding before God. Marriage is not merely a social contract

Is Jesus condemning you with his words? Is the church condemning you? No. He is revealing to you the heart of God towards marriage and how sacred and precious it is.

Passage: Matthew 5:32, 1Corinthians 7:15

Does this speak into gender identity and same sex marriage?

We are caught in the tension of grace and truth. Sometimes there is grace with no truth and sometimes truth with no grace

Jesus calls us to love. Not just love those that are easy to love, but love everyone. Even our enemies. He calls us to be inclusive. Inviting everyone into the church and into the kingdom of God. We try to do this and not be judgemental. That is the grace part. But grace without truth means that something is missing.

God calls us to truth as well. And sometimes the truth that God points us toward, flies against what the world desires. What the world wants us to believe.

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Jesus speaks out the truth here. God made them male and female. This comes out simplistic in a world that has made this a very complicated subject.

-God made you beautiful just as you are. If you are male, God didn't make a mistake. If you are female that is no mistake either.

Jesus speaks into Gender identity. He speaks into sexuality. Often times it isn't what we or the world wants to hear, but he created you. He knows what is best for you. It is trusting in him in that regard.

Life Group Discussion

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

Warm Up:

1. Is there anything about the bible that you wish you could change? If so what would it be and why? (this is not meant to be heretical or disrespectful. Just honest)

Study & Discussion:

Read together: Mark 10:1-12, or Matthew 19:1-12

1. In what ways does Jesus or the Bible view marriage and sex differently from our culture around us? How does this create strain in our daily lives?
2. Look at Matthew 19:11-12. It seems that Jesus has fairly strict guidelines when it comes to Marriage and sex. What is Jesus trying to say to us when He says that some choose to be Eunuchs? How does this apply to our modern day circumstances?
3. When it comes to the topics of gender identity and same sex relationships how should we as the church handle this topic in a God honouring way? How should we handle it on a personal level?

Read together: John 14:15

Is there any way that you struggle with this on a personal level?

Is there a part of your life that you need to live this out, but are struggling with?

Prayer:

1. Is there someone outside the group you would like prayer for today?
2. Is there an area of your life that you would like prayer for today?