What Jesus Said About
MARRIAGE, DIVORCE,
AND STAYING SINGLE
MATTHEW 19:1-12
• In 1900, the divorce rate was 1 to 5. Today, the national rate is 1 to 3, and in certain areas, it is 1 to 2.

• Add separations and desertions to these figures and it is probably not out of line to say that 50% of the marriages in this country fail.
“Nowadays, love is about sex; marriage is a gamble; and divorce, a matter of course.”
Divorce was a common practice in Jesus’ day. The Pharisees were using it to discredit Jesus’ teaching. In answering them, Jesus gave us his fullest teaching on marriage, singleness, and divorce.
I. MARRIAGE (4-6)

A. Marriage is the Created Order of Things

B. Marriage is Good

• The number of marrieds who are “very happy” is high.
• Marrieds earn more and keep more into retirement.
• Marrieds have greater physical and mental health.
• Children who grow up in married, two-parent families have more positive life outcomes than those who do not.
“The benefits of singleness and divorce have been oversold.”
II. DIVORCE (7-9)

A. It is Unnatural (7-8)

B. It is Ugly (8)

C. It is Forgivable

Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ the Righteous One” (1 Jn. 2:1)
III. THE SINGLE LIFE (10-13)

A. Marriage is Natural, Normative, and Good. But There Are Reasons for Being Single

B. Wherever Genes or Circumstances Lead, Live Life In Light of God’s Kingdom
CONCLUSION

• It is natural, normal, and good to be married. Through marriage, I learn to die to self and live to another.

• It is natural, normal, and good for some to be single. Through singleness, I learn to die to self and live to another.

• It is harmful, ugly, and destructive to experience divorce. Through divorce, I can learn to die to self and live to another.