

**LIFE IS FULL OF EXPERIENCES,,, GOOD AND BAD!
THIS WEEKEND,,, I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT A LIFE
EXPERIENCE,,, CALLED; "*DIVORCE*"!**

**NOW,,, MANY PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED DIVORCE!
IT'S A SENSITIVE TOPIC,,, AND ONE THAT MANY OF
OUR PARISH FAMILIES,,, OR FRIENDS MAY HAVE
EXPERIENCED.**

**BUT THIS SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ANYBODY,,, BECAUSE
TODAY,,, NEARLY HALF OF ALL NEW MARRIAGES,,,
END UP IN DIVORCE!**

**BUT BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT WHAT SCRIPTURE HAS
TO SAY ABOUT DIVORCE,,, ALLOW ME TO LIGHTEN
THE DISCUSSION A BIT:**

*A MAN WAS HEADED HOME ONE EVENING,,, AND HE
REALIZED,,, THAT HE HAD FORGOTTEN TO BUY A
BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR HIS DAUGHTER.*

**SO,,, HE DROVE TO THE TOY STORE AND ASKED THE
CLERK:**

"HOW MUCH,,, IS THE BARBIE DOLL IN THE WINDOW?"

THE CLERK REPLIED: "WHICH ONE?"

**WE HAVE: BARBIE GOES TO THE GYM,,, FOR: \$ 19.95
BARBIE GOES TO THE BALL,,, FOR: 19.95
BARBIE GOES SHOPPING,,, FOR: 19.95
BARBIE GOES TO THE BEACH,,, FOR: 19.95**

AND: WE HAVE: DIVORCED BARBIE,,, FOR: \$375.00

***SURPRISED,,, DAD ASKED,,, WHY IS THE DIVORCED
BARBIE \$ 375.00,,, WHEN ALL THE OTHERS ARE ONLY
\$19.95?***

**THE CLERK SAID; *WELL,,, THE DIVORCED BARBIE
COMES WITH KEN'S CAR,,, KEN'S HOUSE,,, KEN'S BOAT,,,
KEN'S DOG AND ALL OF KEN'S FURNITURE.***

**IN (*MARK 10*) THE PHARISEES ASKED JESUS ABOUT
DIVORCE. AGAIN,,, THEY WERE TRYING TO TRAP
HIM,,, SO,,, THEY ASKED JESUS:**

***IS IT UNLAWFUL FOR A HUSBAND TO DIVORCE HIS
WIFE?***

THE PHARISEES KNEW EXACTLY,, WHAT
THE LAW OF MOSES SAID ABOUT DIVORCE!
IN (*DEUTERONOMY 24:1*),, SCRIPTURE SAYS:
*“IF A MAN MARRIES A WOMAN,, WHO BECOMES
DISPLEASING TO HIM,, BECAUSE HE FINDS
SOMETHING INDECENT ABOUT HER,, AND HE WRITES
HER,, A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE,, GIVES IT TO HER,,
AND SENDS HER,, FROM HIS HOUSE,, AND AFTER SHE
LEAVES HIS HOUSE,, SHE BECOMES THE WIFE OF
ANOTHER MAN”.*

A MAN COULD WRITE “*A BILL OF DIVORCE*” ON THE
GROUNDS OF IMMORALITY,, OR,, IF HE FOUND OUT
THAT HIS WIFE WAS NOT A VIRGIN,, BEFORE THEY
WERE MARRIED,, OR,, IF HIS WIFE SIMPLY ANNOYED
HIM..... FOR ANY REASON!

IN THOSE DAYS,, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A
DIVORCE FOR ADULTRY,, BECAUSE IF ADULTRY DID
OCCUR,, BOTH OF THE PARTICIPANTS,, *WOULD BE
STONED TO DEATH!* AND LADIES,, THERE WAS *NO
PROVISION FOR A WIFE TO DIVORCE HER HUSBAND!*

KNOWING THE LAW OF MOSES,, THE PHARISEES
PROBABLY WERE THINKING:

BOY,, HAVE WE GOT JESUS THIS TIME!

THEY THOUGHT,, EITHER WAY JESUS ANSWERED
THEIR QUESTION,, HE’D BE IN BIG TROUBLE!

BUT,, THEY WERE WRONG!

JESUS ANSWERED THEIR QUESTION,, WITH ONE OF
HIS OWN! USING THE *WORD OF GOD*,, HE ASKED
THEM: *WHAT DID MOSES COMMAND YOU?*

THEY REPLIED:

MOSES GAVE US,, A BILL OF DIVORCE TO DISMISS HER!

A BILL OF DIVORCE,, WAS GIVEN TO A WOMAN TO
DECREE HER “*FREE STATUS*” AND TO ASSURE ANY
POTENTIAL HUSBAND,, THAT; SHE WAS;

“FREE TO REMARRY”

HOWEVER,, SHE COULD NEVER RETURN,, TO HER 1ST
HUSBAND.

JESUS STOPPED THE PHARISEES SAYING:

THIS IS THE REASON THAT MOSES “BILL OF DIVORCE” WAS GIVEN TO THEM. BECAUSE OF THE HARDNESS OR DRYNESS,, SINFULLNESS,, OF YOUR HEARTS,, HE WROTE YOU THIS COMMANDMENT”.

MOSES GAVE THEM PERMISSION,, TO CONTROL THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE,, WHICH IS A SIN! BUT HE DIDN'T COMMAND DIVORCE! HE PERMITTED THE WRITING,, OF A *DIVORCE CERTIFICATE*,, IN ORDER TO TRY TO PROTECT AND LESSEN A CLASS OF ABANDONED WOMEN.

GOD'S INTENTION FOR MARRIAGE,, IS PERMANENCE!

JESUS BROUGHT THEM TO THE BEGINNING OF CREATION,, WHERE GOD ESTABLISHED MARRIAGE,, WHEN HE SAID: **GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. FOR THIS REASON,, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH”. NOT ONLY ARE WE CREATED,, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD BUT,, IN THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE,, IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT,, THAT BINDS A MAN AND A WOMAN TOGETHER AND THEY BECOME ONE FLESH.**

THEN,, AN ULTIMATE UNION,, A RELATIONSHIP,, THAT CAN ONLY BE KNOWN BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND A WIFE,, BEGINS TO DEVELOP.

THIS IS WHY,, SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR,, WHEN IT SAYS:

SAME SEX MARRIAGES ARE WRONG!

THEY'RE WRONG,, BECAUSE THEY'RE STANDING IN THE FACE OF GOD,, ARROGANTLY REBELLING AGAINST GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN OF CREATION,, HIS HUMAN DESIGN,, AND HIS COMMAND TO:

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND FILL THE EARTH!

THE PHARISEES VIEWED MARRIAGE TOO LIGHTLY AND ONCE MARRIAGE SERVED IT'S PURPOSE,, OR,, IF IT'S BENEFITS,, WERE NO LONGER THERE,, THEY JUST WROTE: *A BILL OF DIVORCE!*

NOW,, LET'S MOVE AHEAD,, 2000 YEARS,, TO 2018.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, DIVORCE HAS ENVADED THE MARRIAGE PROCESS,,, AND OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES,,, IT SEEMS,,, THAT OUR CULTURE HAS BECOME SIMILAR,,, TO THAT OF THE PHARISEES. DIVORCE HAS BECOME: “THE EASY WAY OUT**” OF THE MARRIAGE PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT,,, AND MANY MARRIAGE COUNSELORS TODAY,,, HAVE PLANTED THAT SEED!**

FOR EXAMPLE “PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS”! PEOPLE COME TO THE WEDDING ALTAR OF GOD TODAY,,, WITH THE MIND SET OF: “*WELL,,, IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT,,, I'LL JUST GET A DIVORCE*”!

INSTEAD OF THE UNDERSTANDING,,, THAT THEY'VE MADE A SACRED COMMITMENT AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE SAYING; “*WE'VE MADE A COMMITMENT,,, SO,,, WE WILL WORK THINGS OUT!*”

WE NEED TO TEACH PEOPLE,,, **THE TRUE SENSE OF COMMITMENT IN MARRIAGE,,, BY USING SCRIPTURE AND OUR OWN EXAMPLES.**

WITH A SHOW OF HANDS,,, HOW MANY,,, HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR BETWEEN **5 – 10 YEARS? 10 – 25 YEARS? 25 – 50 YEARS? HOW ABOUT MORE THAN 50 YEARS? ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL????**

NOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, I WOULD LIKE EVERY MARRIED COUPLE,,, TO PLEASE RISE,,, FOR A MARRIAGE BLESSING!

OH GOD,,, WHO IN CREATING THE HUMAN RACE,,, WILLED,,, THAT MAN AND WIFE SHOULD BE ONE. KEEP WE PRAY,,, IN A BOND OF INSEPARABLE LOVE,,, THOSE WHO ARE UNITED IN THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE,,, SO THAT AS YOU MAKE THEIR LOVE FRUITFUL,,, THEY MAY BECOME,,, BY YOUR GRACE,,, WITNESSES TO CHARITY ITSELF.

MAY OUR LOVING GOD,,, CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR MARRIAGE.

THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD,,, AMEN!

WE NEED TO TEACH OUR YOUNGSTERS,, THAT WHILE MARRIAGE IS WORK.... IT'S WORK THAT ACHIEVES A TRUE HAPPINESS,, AND A SPECIAL KIND OF SWEETNESS OF LIFE,, BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN,, THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

OUR CHILDREN,, MUST NOT ENTER INTO MARRIAGE WITH SUCH FLAWED MISCONCEPTIONS AS THESE;
(*) *GETTING MARRIED- WILL SOLVE ALL MY PROBLEMS.*
(*) *IF I GET MARRIED- I WONT BE ALONE ANY MORE!*
(*) *MARRIAGE- IS JUST A PIECE OF PAPER.*
(*) *I ONLY GOT MARRIED- SO I COULD GET AWAY FROM HOME OR MY PARENTS.*

THEN,, HERE'S THE BIGGIE!

(*) *AFTER WE GET MARRIED,, I CAN CHANGE THEM!*
HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU SEEN THAT WORK OUT?

MARRIAGE ISN'T JUST A LEGAL PIECE OF PAPER. IT REQUIRES COMMITMENT AND WORK. TO PROVE IT ALL WE HAVE TO DO,, IS LOOK AROUND,, AT THE MARRIED COUPLES,, WHO HAVE SO FAITHFULLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER IN MARRIAGE!

THEN,, SCRIPTURE SAYS,, THAT THE DISCIPLES QUESTIONED JESUS ABOUT WHAT HE HAD SAID TO THE PHARISEES AND JESUS REPLIED:

WHOEVER DIVORCES HIS WIFE AND MARRIES ANOTHER,, COMMITS ADULTERY AGAINST HER AND IF SHE DIVORCES HER HUSBAND AND MARRIES ANOTHER,, SHE COMMITS ADULTERY.

HERE,, JESUS SET THE STANDARD,, WHILE ALSO,, RAISING THE SOCIAL STATUS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN,, EQUAL TO MEN.

GOD HATES DIVORCE,, BECAUSE IT SEVERS THE UNION THAT HE DESIGNED AND BECAUSE IT RESULTS IN DEVASTATION TO THOSE INVOLVED.

IT LEAVES SCARS,, PAIN,, BITTERNESS AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP,, THAT MAY TAKE YEARS TO OVERCOME.

THE CHURCH MAY ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE,,, BECAUSE IT'S FORGOTTEN THESE WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE:

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED,,, NO HUMAN BEING MUST SEPARATE!

**(MATTHEW 5:32) SAYS:
ADULTERY IS A CAUSE FOR DIVORCE!**

**(1 CORINTHIANS) SAYS:
IF A NON CHRISTIAN SPOUSE WANTS TO LEAVE A RELATIONSHIP,,, LET THEM GO,,, AND THE CHRISTIAN SPOUSE IS FREE TO MARRY. AND ALSO,,, LIVE AS PEACEABLE WITH ONE ANOTHER AS YOU CAN.**

HOWEVER,,, THERE ARE CASES WHERE ABUSES LIKE,,, PHYSICAL,,, MENTAL,,, DRUG,,, ALCOHOL,,, AND ABANDONMENT,,, AMONG OTHERS,,, COULD ENDANGER THE SPOUSE OR THE CHILDREN. THESE AREN'T THINGS OF PEACE,,, SO,,, IT'S REASONABLE FOR THOSE ENDANGERED,,, TO LEAVE!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, THE CHURCH ISN'T SAYING THAT DIVORCE IS RIGHT,,, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SIN OF MANS HEARTS,,, JESUS SAID;

AT TIMES,,, IT IS INEVITABLE!

TOO OFTEN,,, THE CHURCH RESPONSE HAS BEEN,,, TO POINT THE FINGER OF BLAME,,, TO SHUN THOSE INVOLVED,,, OR,,, TO TREAT DIVORCED PEOPLE,,, AS THOUGH THEY HAVE A DISEASE.

IN THE WESTERN CHURCH,,, DIVORCED CATHOLICS ARE REFUSED THE SACRAMENTS! IN PROTESTANT CHURCHES,,, DIVORCED PEOPLE CAN'T TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL,,, OR,,, SING IN THE CHOIR.

THE CHURCH NEEDS TO SEEK FORGIVENESS FOR BEING JUDGEMENTAL AND TO STOP POINTING THE FINGER OF BLAME,,, AT THOSE WHO HAVE FACED DIVORCE,,, BECAUSE THEY'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH!

**IT NEEDS TO REMEMBER THESE WORDS OF JESUS:
*LET HE,,, WHO IS WITHOUT SIN,,, CAST THE 1ST STONE!***

**WE,,, AS THE CHURCH,,, NEED TO LOOK AT THE
WOUNDED HEARTS,,, OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN
DIVORCED,,, THROUGH THE EYES OF GRACE,,, LIKE
JESUS DID,,, WHEN HE SAID:**

***NOBODY CHARGES YOU,,, NEITHER DO I,,, GO AND SIN
NO MORE!***

**LET US OPEN OUR ARMS OF LOVE,,, ACCEPTANCE,,,
AND ENCOURAGEMENT,,, SO THOSE WITH BROKEN
LIVES,,, CAN BE HEALED,,, WITH GOD'S LOVE AND
FORGIVENESS.**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, HERE AT ST. BARNABAS,,,
I'VE SEEN THE DEEPNESS OF YOUR LOVE,,, AND YOUR
ACCEPTANCE.**

**I ENCOURAGE YOU,,, CONTINUE SPREADING GOD'S
WELCOMING MESSAGE,,, BY LETTING THOSE YOU
MEET,,, KNOW,,, THAT ALL OF THE SACRAMENTS ARE
AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE,,, WITHOUT EXCEPTION
AND WITHOUT EXCLUSION HERE AT ST BARNABAS!**

***THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
+++ AMEN+++***

(1,591) WDS,,, 7 PGS