

same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Matthew 7:1,2

- We are not to judge people in certain settings.
- If we do judge others we will be judged by the same measure.
- When would we be free to judge others?

“... in Greek the normal word for adultery is *moicheia*. Matthew has already used *moicheia* and *porneia* in the same context, suggesting some distinction between the words.

It must be admitted that the word *porneia* itself is very broad. Occasionally it can refer to a specific kind of sexual sin, but only because the specific sexual sin belongs to the larger category of sexual immorality. *Porneia* covers the entire range of sexual sins and should not be restricted unless the context requires it.

Consequently, what Jesus seems to be saying is that divorce and remarriage always involve evil; but as Moses permitted it because of the hardness of human hearts, so also does he--but now on the sole grounds of *porneia* (sexual sin of any sort)... Jesus' judgments on the matter are therefore both lighter (no capital punishment for adultery) and heavier (the sole exception being some form of sexual sin) than Moses.

New International Bible Commentary on Matthew 19:7

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 40 WHEN RELATIONSHIPS GO WRONG

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:4

- There can be avoidable conflict in the family
- A way around this is to make sure the family has a spiritual heart to their life together

“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

2 Timothy 3:2

- People will have objectionable traits of character that will cause disputes.
- People with these traits will not love God.
- Have you noticed that this is happening?

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23

- In preparation for worship we should be taking into account our daily life.
- Disputes with people have spiritual consequences.
- Who is to take the initiative in resolving a problem?
- What part of this passage could non-Christians use these methods to deal with problems?

"Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?' 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Matthew 19:3-6

- God made men and women—to marry.
- God is the one who has joined the two people together
- When does marriage take place? When the vows

are made—or when God joins the couple together?

- The ideal is that people are not to divorce
- What if the couple do not keep up with God's side of the bargain? For instance if the wife behaves in a way that breaks her vow with God—or the husband breaks his vow with God by his actions?

"Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.'"

Matthew 19:8,9

- Moses permitted divorce—though divorce is still not the ideal
- The teachers of Jesus' day allowed divorce for petty reasons—spoiling the food was an instance that could be used
- Jesus now adds that divorce is only available to those who are unfaithful in the marriage—and then adultery does not take place
- What is unfaithfulness in marriage? Is it about serious issues — not petty reasons?

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the