

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Family Faithfulness

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Matthew 19:1-9

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2132

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) It is very sad that in today's world we have what is sometimes called "throw-away marriages."
  - i) Somehow, it just doesn't work out, and they throw it away.
  - ii) It has been said that some couples get married as an ideal, then the ideal turns into an ordeal, and then they look for a new deal.
- b) There was once a time in America when "traditional" families were the norm.
  - i) Mothers took care of the home.
  - ii) Fathers went off to work.
  - iii) The family ate their meals together.
  - iv) They went to church together.
- c) The typical family in America is much different today.
  - i) In the typical family, both husband and wife work.
  - ii) Many households today are single-parent households.
    - (1) A lot of this is caused by divorce.
      - (a) Divorce can have a devastating effect on children.
      - (b) Broken homes produce broken lives which produce broken homes which produce broken lives.
      - (c) God hates divorce.
        - (i) Malachi 2:16
    - iii) We're told today that sex between unmarried couples is normal and acceptable.
    - iv) We're told that homosexuality is an alternate lifestyle.
    - v) We're told that unmarried motherhood has no shame to it.
    - vi) We're told that marriage is not sacred because nothing is sacred.
    - vii) The chief code in America today is, "Don't be judgmental."
  - iii) We're told today that sex between unmarried couples is normal and acceptable.
  - iv) We're told that homosexuality is an alternate lifestyle.
  - v) We're told that unmarried motherhood has no shame to it.
  - vi) We're told that marriage is not sacred because nothing is sacred.
  - vii) The chief code in America today is, "Don't be judgmental."
- d) Matthew 19:1-9
  - i) Jesus expects us to read the Bible.
  - ii) One of the most damning things that the devil has done is to blur the distinctions between male and female.
- e) We need family faithfulness today.

2) MARRIAGE IS MADE BY HEAVEN (MATTHEW 19:4-5)

- a) Marriage did not come from sociology or evolution; and it is not some cultural innovation.
  - i) Marriage is God's plan.
- b) In Matthew 19:5, God gives us the guide to building a home.
  - i) Leave:
    - (1) This speaks of the priority of marriage.
      - (a) Matthew 19:5
        - (i) We're to leave father and mother.
      - (2) As a parent, your task is to get your children ready to leave the nest.
        - (a) Deuteronomy 32:11

- (i) As an eagle must teach the eaglet to fly, so must parents teach their children to leave the nest.
  - (b) Parents have the responsibility to work themselves out of a job.
    - (i) Parents are successful when their children no longer need them.
    - (ii) This is against our nature since we have a need to be needed.
  - (c) It is important to remember that even though parents work themselves out of a job, they do not work themselves out of a relationship.
    - (i) As you let your children go when the time is right, they will come back as friends.
- (3) Marriage in physical relationships is the supreme commitment.
  - (a) We are to honor our parents, but our parents are not our supreme commitment.
  - (b) We are to love our children, but our children are not our supreme commitment.
    - (i) Mate to mate is a stronger commitment than children to parents and parents to children.
  - (c) Business is not our supreme commitment.
- ii) Cleave:
  - (1) This speaks of the permanence of marriage.
    - (a) Matthew 19:5
      - (i) The word “cleave” in this passage means “to weld” or “to glue.”
  - (2) Marriage is a lifetime contract, not an optional one.
    - (a) A couple that considers divorce as an option will be a family with a great potential for disintegration.
    - (b) Those who do not consider divorce as an option will be a family who will stay together.
      - (i) Families who stick it out and those who don't have basically the same kinds of problems.
        - 1. There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
        - 2. When couples learn to attack the problem rather than one another, then they can learn to work it out.
- iii) One flesh:
  - (1) This is the purpose of marriage.
    - (a) Matthew 19:5
      - (i) This speaks of more than sexual union.
      - (ii) When a person marries, he or she marries a whole person: body, soul and spirit.
  - (2) In marriage, a person is no longer an individual, but they become one flesh.
    - (a) God's arithmetic is one plus one equals one.

- (b) Marriage is a romance in which both the hero and the heroine die in the first chapter, and a new person comes into being.
    - (i) That new person is “one flesh.”
  - (3) The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh physically.
    - (a) Sex is not dirty or impure; it is a gift of God.
    - (b) We see in Scripture that God is not trying to keep us from sex; He is trying to keep sex for us.
      - (i) Exodus 20:14
      - (ii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
      - (iii) Hebrews 13:4
        - 1. Since it is God’s gift, He has put some high walls to protect it and preserve it.
    - (c) This is God’s gift so that a husband and wife can know one another in the most intimate of relationships.
    - (d) The devil has tried to take that which is wonderful and beautiful and trivialize it.
  - (4) The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh emotionally.
    - (a) Not only should a husband and wife be sweethearts, but they should also be friends.
  - (5) The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh spiritually.
    - (a) A husband and wife should both love the Lord.
      - (i) They are members of the same body: His body.
- 3) MARRIAGE CAN BE MARRED BY HELL (MATTHEW 19:1-3, 7-9)
- a) God desires that marriage be a permanent union.
  - b) The only reason that Jesus allowed divorce was for immorality (fornication).
    - i) Matthew 5:31-32
      - (1) Moses permitted divorce but never commanded divorce.
      - (2) A marriage may be broken by the continual marital unfaithfulness of one of the partners.
      - (3) “Fornication” comes from the Greek word “porneia” which means “sexual impurity.”
    - ii) Even when a husband or wife has been unfaithful, reconciliation and forgiveness are called for to put the family back together and to restore.
      - (1) Hosea 1
        - (a) Hosea’s wife, Gomer, became a prostitute.
        - (b) Hosea bought her from the slave market, restored her, forgave her and took her back as his wife.
      - iii) Sometimes it isn’t possible; but if possible, the marriage relationship can be restored with forgiveness and grace.
  - c) We have many trivial excuses for divorce in today’s world.
    - i) Some say that the love has gone out of their marriage.
      - (1) Ephesians 5:25

- (a) This is not a suggestion but a command for husbands to love their wives.
  - (b) Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God to carry it out.
- (2) Titus 2:4
  - (a) Women are to love their husbands.
- (3) We are commanded to love.
- ii) Part of the problem is that the world's definition of love is not the Bible's definition of love.
  - (1) Many people have an emotional, conditional love.
    - (a) Their definition of love is based on attractiveness.
      - (i) A person who is loved this way is going to feel very insecure.
      - (b) They love because of what they can get out of it.
  - (2) Ephesians 5:25
    - (a) In this passage, the word for "love" is "agape."
      - (i) This is the kind of love that Jesus Christ has for the church.
      - (ii) It is a non-conditional love.
        - 1. God loves us unconditionally.
        - 2. This is the way spouses are to love one another.
  - (3) When spouses love with conditional love:
    - (a) They become fearful.
      - (i) They think that they have to perform in order to keep their spouse.
        - 1. They think that they have to keep the house a certain way, look a certain way or lose a certain number of pounds, or else they may lose their spouse.
    - (b) When a divorce comes, they then feel guilty.
      - (i) They think that somehow, they weren't good enough.
    - (c) That guilt then turns to anger.
      - (i) They feel that they were used and are now discarded.
    - (d) That anger then turns to bitterness.
  - (4) When spouses love each other unconditionally as the Bible teaches:
    - (a) Rather than fear, there's peace.
    - (b) Rather than guilt, there's security.
    - (c) Rather than bitterness, there's joy.
- d) We must learn to love as Jesus loved, and that's why it takes Christ to make a marriage.
  - i) Agape love is not a human product.
    - (1) Romans 5:5
  - ii) When we learn to love unconditionally, we don't have to listen to the devil's lies.
    - (1) Many people think that love is some sort of emotional experience.
- e) The problem in marriage is that we're trying to make somebody else satisfy and meet our needs.

- i) It is basically selfish.
- ii) There is nothing wrong with romantic love, but romantic love is not enough.

#### 4) MARRIAGE IS MARKED BY HOPE

- a) God gives you hope in your home.
  - i) Whatever the situation – if you’ve been divorced, deserted, if your home seems to be a living nightmare – God gives hope.
- b) Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.
  - i) You are not a second-class citizen if you have been divorced.
  - ii) God’s grace is available.
  - iii) Forgiveness is always available.
  - iv) Romans 8:1
  - v) 1 John 1:7
  - vi) Isaiah 1:18
- c) John 8:1-11
  - i) God used the woman at the well mightily; she led the city of Samaria to Christ.
  - ii) God does not hold grudges.
- d) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
  - i) If the sins mentioned in this passage comprise the lifestyle that you embrace, then you need to be saved.
  - ii) If you are in Christ Jesus, then you are a new creature.
    - (1) No matter what has happened in the past, marriages that are made in Heaven and marred by Hell are marked by hope.
- e) God is a God of grace and forgiveness.

#### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are married, make certain that Christ is the head of your home.
  - i) If your marriage is not a Christian marriage, then give your hearts to Jesus Christ today.
- b) If you are married, continue to feed your love day by day.
  - i) Don’t take it for granted.
- c) If you are divorced, then ask God for forgiveness if it was your fault.
- d) If you were divorced because of someone else’s wrongdoing, then forgive in your heart and don’t let bitterness take hold.
- e) Your godly home may be perhaps the greatest testimony you’ll have in this world.
- f) If you are unmarried, then marry only in the Lord and build a Christian home.
- g) A home is the sweetest place on Earth, the nearest place to Heaven, and it’s the only part of the Garden of Eden that we have left.
- h) The first step in building a Christian home is to know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
  - i) Are you saved?

- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16