**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Family Revival |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 19:3-9 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2477 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We want revival in our nation and in our churches.
      1. Unless we have revival in the family, we will not have revival in the church or in the nation.
   2. Matthew 19:3-6
      1. In this passage, “tempted Him” means that they were “testing Him.”
   3. We live in a day of broken homes and throw-away marriages.
      1. People are treating adultery as a small thing.
      2. Pre-marital sex is treated as an incident.
      3. Divorce is treated as an unfortunate occurrence.
   4. We are desperately in need of a spiritual revival.
      1. We can always be better and get closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.
   5. The intellectuals of our day have told us the following:
      1. Sex outside of marriage is no big deal.
      2. Pornography is a victimless crime.
         1. That is a lie.
   6. The pornography business takes in billions of dollars each year.
      1. We are being drowned in a mudslide of filth, yet we are told that it is freedom of expression.
   7. We have come to a time when unwed motherhood is looked upon as incidental, and it is alright to have a baby outside of wedlock.
      1. Many children come into this world without father and mother being married.
   8. Today, there is homosexual marriage.
      1. This goes against the norms of history and the teaching of the Word of God.
      2. There are those who say that they don’t want anyone telling them whom they can marry, for they are free individuals.
         1. But we have already been told whom we can marry before this issue came up.
            1. You cannot marry a child.

That is against the law.

* + - * 1. You cannot marry a blood relative.

That is against the law.

* + - * 1. You cannot marry someone who is already married.

That is against the law.

* + - * 1. You cannot marry more than one person.

That is against the law.

* + - * 1. You cannot marry an animal.

That is against the law.

* + - * 1. You cannot marry someone of the same sex.

That is against the law.

* 1. We have to go back to the Word of God.
     1. In today’s message, we will look at what God’s Word says about revival in the family.
        1. We have to know what a marriage is before we can build a marriage in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. god has designed the family (matthew 19:4-5)
   1. The family was not designed by some social engineer, nor did it rise from the swamps of immorality and evolution.
      1. God designed the family.
   2. God established monogamous marriage to meet the deepest needs of humankind:
      1. Emotional
      2. Physical
      3. Psychological
      4. Spiritual
   3. God had something in mind when He planned the family.
   4. There are three key verbs in Matthew 19:4-5:
      1. Leave
      2. Cleave
      3. Be one flesh
         1. This is God’s plan for marriage.
         2. This is what God designed for our homes.
   5. We are to leave father and mother.
      1. Matthew 19:5
      2. Marriage is the supreme commitment.
         1. Marriage is a greater commitment than the commitment we have to our parents.
            1. We have a commitment to our parents.

Exodus 20:12

But the marriage commitment rises to a higher priority than our relationship to our parents.

* + - * 1. We are to leave father and mother and be joined to our husband or wife.
      1. Marriage is greater than the child and parent relationship.
    1. We are to choose our mate and give higher priority to our mate than any other thing in this world.
    2. The purse strings and the apron strings need to be cut.
  1. We are to cleave to our spouse.
     1. Matthew 19:5
        1. In this verse, the word “cleave” means “to weld together” or “to glue together.”
     2. Marriage is a permanent relationship.
        1. Divorce is not an option in the Word of God, except for marital infidelity.
        2. You are to cleave to your spouse till death do you part.
     3. Marriage is not incidental.
        1. People get married for an ideal, then the ideal turns into an ordeal, and then they want a new deal.
        2. Marriage is a lifetime commitment.
  2. We are to be one flesh.
     1. Matthew 19:5
     2. God’s arithmetic is one plus one equals one.
     3. We are to be one flesh physically for multiplication.
        1. God wants us to have children.
           1. Children are a blessing from the Lord.
        2. Malachi 2:15
           1. God made husband and wife one that they might reproduce and have a godly seed.
        3. A sad thing in the world today is that many who should have children are not having children.
           1. There are many who no longer consider children a blessing but a curse.
           2. Many children are killed in the womb because they would be an impediment to the plans of father and mother.
           3. Today, there is a new category of people:

D.I.N.K.’s - Double Income No Kids.

They figure if father and mother work and they don’t have any kids, then they will have enough to satisfy their material desires.

But children don’t make a rich man poor; they make a poor man rich.

* + 1. We are to be one flesh psychologically for communication.
       1. We need someone by our side.
       2. Marriage is the deepest emotional intimacy that a person can have.
       3. Not only should you be lovers, but you also ought to be friends.
       4. Your spouse is your completer, not your competer.
       5. Marriage is like a violin and a bow.
          1. They are separate; but when they get together, that is when the music comes.
    2. We are to be one flesh for communion.
       1. We open our hearts to God and to one another.
       2. There are few things that will draw a husband and wife closer together than prayer.
          1. If you are one flesh, then you should pray together.
       3. If you are not having a family time of devotion and the husband is not praying with his wife, then there is something desperately wrong.
          1. There is nothing that the wife needs more than to hear her husband pray and to hear his heart.

1. satan wants to destroy the family (matthew 19:7-9)
   1. Marriage is to be a permanent union, but the devil has leveled all of the artillery of Hell against the home.
      1. He wants to break up the home.
   2. Some get divorced because they say that the love has gone out of their marriage.
      1. That will not pass by the judgment of God.
      2. It is not love that holds your marriage together.
         1. It is marriage that sustains your love.
      3. Love is not an emotion that we feel; love is a choice of the will.
         1. The Bible tells husbands to love their wives.
            1. Ephesians 5:25
            2. This is not a suggestion but a command.
            3. God would not command us to do something unless He enables us to do it.

Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God to carry out that command.

* + - 1. Titus 2:4
         1. The older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands.

This is something that can be learned.

* + - 1. God has commanded us to love.
    1. We have a generation today that doesn’t understand love.
       1. Instead of “I love you,” it is “I want you because you meet a particular need in my life.”
          1. This kind of love is not the love that binds husbands and wives together.
          2. This kind of love is conditional.
    2. If you got married because of someone’s charm, beauty, or wit, then your marriage is in danger.
       1. These things fade and go away after a while.
       2. This kind of conditional love is dangerous to a marriage.
          1. It is basically selfish.
          2. It will cause three attitudes in your partner:

Fear

They will be afraid that they cannot keep up the conditions of marriage.

They will be afraid that someone else will come along who will meet the conditions better.

Guilt

They will feel like something is wrong with them and that they don’t measure up.

Anger

They will feel like they have been used.

* + 1. God’s love for us is an unconditional love.
       1. When the Bible says that a husband is to love his wife, God uses the word “agape love,” which is unconditional love.
          1. It does not depend upon us meeting conditions.
       2. Romans 5:8
    2. When the husband and wife love each other with an unconditional love:
       1. Security replaces fear.
       2. Peace replaces guilt.
       3. Joy replaces anger.
  1. Another excuse that is used for divorce is that it would be better for the children than to live in constant quarreling.
     1. Sociologists have told us that divorce is seldom, if ever, a positive factor in the life of a child.
     2. This is selfishness on the parents’ part.
        1. They want to do what they want and have what they want, yet they pawn it off as better for the children.
     3. People think that the only two alternatives are divorce or constant quarreling.
        1. But there is a third alternative; get your heart right with God.
        2. Stop the quarreling, and don’t excuse it.
        3. The Bible says that we are to live peaceably with all men.
           1. Romans 12:18
  2. Another excuse for divorce is we owe it to ourselves to be happy.
     1. We owe it to ourselves to keep our word when we made a marriage vow before Almighty God.
     2. We don’t live in isolation.
        1. Your happiness is not the only thing that matters.
     3. When someone breaks their marriage vows, they are doing the following:
        1. They are telling God that they don’t care about His commandments.
        2. They have defrauded their partner to whom they have made a holy vow.
        3. They have dishonored themselves because they have broken that vow and have wounded their children.
           1. It has been said that a man who breaks up his home by adultery is telling his child:

Your mother is not worth much.

Your father is a liar and a cheat.

Honor is not as important as pleasure.

My own satisfaction is more important than you.

* 1. Some say that God told them to get a divorce.
     1. God has not changed His laws just for you.
  2. People who get divorces and people who do not get divorces normally have the same kinds of problems.
     1. The difference is how people react to those problems.
     2. There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
     3. We can solve a problem if we will attack the problem rather than one another.
  3. A bad marriage cannot be healed by one sermon and cannot be healed overnight.
     1. But you can change the direction of your marriage.
        1. You can begin to grow a marriage as God wants it to be.
     2. It is a tragedy when 10% of the marriage is in trouble, and the other 90% goes down the drain because people are not mature enough to do what God wants them to do.

1. you must defend your family (matthew 19:6)
   1. There is a war on the family.
      1. It is more insidious than the terrorism and other things that we face.
   2. The church and the nation are no stronger than its families.
   3. God has joined husband and wife together; where there is God, there is hope.
   4. Perhaps you have failed and your home is broken beyond repair; you have gotten divorced and remarried.
      1. What should you do?
         1. Make the best of that marriage.
            1. Though it is not God’s original will, God is a God of mercy.
   5. Some people want to make divorce an unpardonable sin.
      1. They want to make divorce a dead-end road.
      2. God’s Word teaches that if we have failed, we can be forgiven.
         1. Forgiveness is always available.
   6. If your home has been broken, whether it’s your fault or someone else’s fault, it is not the end for you.
      1. God has a way for you.
         1. Romans 8:1
      2. Do not let the devil condemn you over this.
         1. 1 John 1:9
         2. Isaiah 1:18
   7. People who look down upon others who have failed need to understand that they have failed, also.
      1. Who are we to judge someone else?
      2. The church is not supposed to be so much a showcase for saints as it is a hospital for sinners.
   8. In the Bible, there were people who wanted to stone a woman because she was taken in adultery.
      1. John 8:7
      2. No one is sinless; therefore, don’t look down on someone who has suffered a broken home.
         1. They need our love and compassion, not our condemnation.
      3. John 8:10-11
         1. What would God do with a repentant sinner who has a broken home?
            1. He would treat them exactly the same way because the Lord changes not.

Hebrews 13:8

* 1. Divorce is wrong.
     1. God’s Word teaches that marriage is a union where two people leave, cleave, and become one flesh.
        1. That is God’s plan.
     2. We need to teach young people what the Bible says about marriage.
     3. We need to minister to those who have failed in some way.
     4. We are to defend our homes.
        1. God has designed it, the devil wants to destroy it, and it is up to us to defend the home.
  2. How can you defend your home?
     1. Make Jesus Christ the head, the center, of your home.
        1. Your home is like a wheel, and Jesus is the hub.
           1. The closer the spokes (the members) in that wheel come to the hub, the closer they are to one another.
        2. If Christ is in the center of your home, then that will be the greatest testimony you can give.
     2. Continue to feed your love.
        1. Some people have the idea that true love is like a diamond, something that we purchase, keep, or enjoy.
           1. That is not what love is.
        2. Love is like a flower.
           1. It must be nurtured, cultivated, and cared for day by day.
        3. If you don’t love your spouse more today than you did years ago, then you probably love him or her less.
        4. Love is a continuing and growing thing.
        5. Husbands should never flirt with other women, even in jest.
           1. But they should never cease to flirt with their own wife.
        6. Remember how you used to treat each other when you first got married.
           1. Husbands, open the car door for your wife.
        7. If you are married and have a Christian home, then make it a testimony to the world.
     3. If your home is broken, ask God for forgiveness.
        1. If it was not your fault, deal with the bitterness and get rid of it.
           1. You are not going to make it any better with bitterness.
     4. Marry only in the Lord.
        1. Never marry an unsaved person with the idea that you can lead that person to Christ.
        2. 2 Corinthians 6:14
        3. An unbeliever is a child of the devil.
           1. If you marry a child of the devil, then you get the devil for a father-in-law.
        4. Don’t marry a person in order to change them.
        5. How are you going to find the right person?
           1. To find the right person is to be the right person.
           2. There is someone out there looking for you just like you are looking for them.
           3. Trust the Lord in this, and be patient.
  3. If you want your marriage to last, the Bible says that a three-fold cord is not easily broken.
     1. Ecclesiastes 4:12
     2. One strand can be broken.
     3. Two strands can be broken.
     4. But three strands together give strength.
        1. A three-fold cord is: a man, a woman, and Jesus Christ.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. There cannot be a revival in your home unless there is revival in you.
   2. There cannot be a revival in the church unless there is revival in the home.
   3. There cannot be a revival in the nation unless there is revival in our families.
      1. Pray that God will bring a revival, and let it begin with me.
   4. There are three homes that God wants you to have:
      1. God wants you to have a Heavenly home.
         1. Are you saved and bound for Glory?
         2. Do you know that you are saved?
      2. God wants you to have a family home.
      3. God wants you to have a church home.
         1. Jesus is the key to all three.
   5. Remember that divorce is not an unpardonable sin.
      1. God has a future for you.
         1. 2 Corinthians 5:17
      2. This is not to minimize divorce.
         1. It is to maximize grace.
   6. Let your home be a cameo of God’s love and faithfulness.
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16