

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Treasuring Marital Fidelity

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Matthew 19:1-6

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1785

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We have been told that America has gone through a sexual revolution.
  - i) In a sense that is true, but it is not a revolution.
    - (1) It has been a disaster.
  - ii) Times have changed in America, but God's Word has not changed.
- b) Matthew 19:1-6
  - i) Jesus believed in divine creation, and Jesus believed in the separation of the sexes.
- c) In today's message, we will look into God's Word to see what it says about treasuring marital fidelity.

2) THE PROVISION OF THE MARRIED LIFE (MATTHEW 19:4-6)

- a) Matthew 19:4
- b) God ordained marriage in the Garden of Eden.
- c) Marriage is not old fashioned, out of date, worn out, or obsolete.
- d) The plan of marriage.
  - i) It is a plan of God.
  - ii) Matthew 19:4
  - iii) Marriage is the first institution ordained of God.
    - (1) It came before laws, civilization, and government.
    - (2) It even came before a system of worship and the church.
    - (3) It is the primary institution of God.
  - iv) Regardless of the tragic failures of the past, the desire for marriage is born anew in every generation because it is something that God Almighty has put in the hearts and minds of people.
    - (1) Modern sociologists try to disprove this.
      - (a) They say that family is a product of any given society at a particular time in history.
  - v) Marriage was ordained by Almighty God in the Garden of Eden, and Jesus said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
    - (1) Matthew 19:6
  - vi) The ultimate authority of marriage rests with God and not with man or society.
- e) The priority of marriage.
  - i) Marriage is supreme above any other earthly commitment.
  - ii) Matthew 19:5
  - iii) Parents are not the supreme commitment.
    - (1) We are to honor our parents.
  - iv) Children are not the prime commitment.
    - (1) We are to love our children and care for them, but a wife can make a tragic mistake if she pours all of her devotion into the children and not her husband.
      - (a) The children sooner or later will leave the home.
      - (2) Mate to mate is a higher relationship in the Bible than child to parent.

- (a) Matthew 19:5
- v) The business life is not the supreme commitment.
  - (1) Many people are in danger of sacrificing their homes on the altar of their businesses.
- f) The permanence of marriage.
  - i) Matthew 19:6
    - (1) One man for one woman to death do them part.
    - ii) God forbid our throw-away marriages.
- g) The product of marriage.
  - i) Matthew 19:6
    - (1) One flesh.
      - (a) A man and wife are like a violin and a bow.
        - (i) One is inadequate and incomplete apart.
        - (ii) Together, they make wonderful music.
      - (b) A stream on a mountain flows down to join another stream from a different mountain.
        - (i) When the streams meet, the water intermingles and, from then on, they become one stream.
        - (ii) This is like marriage; the two become one flesh.
  - ii) Don't get the idea that holy matrimony is some sort of penalty.
    - (1) God's plans are for our good and our welfare.
      - (a) God loves us.
    - (2) Psalm 84:11
    - (3) When God says, "Thou shalt not," He is saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
    - (4) When God says, "Thou shalt," He is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
      - (a) God has a wonderful plan, and it operates best according to His instructions.
  - iii) 1 Corinthians 7:3-5
    - (1) God gave us sex, not only for procreation but for fellowship, communion, joy, comfort, and mutual love.
  - iv) In the Bible, when a husband and wife would come together sexually, the Bible would use the phrase that he "knew his wife".
    - (1) This means that sex is a form of communication that cannot be put into words.
      - (a) It is a way of saying, "I love you," that cannot be said any other way.
  - v) When God said that we should not commit adultery and to flee fornication, He was not trying to keep sex from us; He is keeping sex for us.
    - (1) God has protected intimacy because it is so intrinsically beautiful.
      - (a) In its place it is right; but out of place, it is wrong.
- h) Matthew 19:4

3) THE POLLUTION OF THE MARRIED LIFE (MATTHEW 19:7-9)

a) Matthew 19:7-9

- i) The Lord is saying that adultery is a sin that pollutes the married life.
  - (1) To adulterate means to make impure.
  - (2) God does not want us to make impure something that is pure and wonderful.

b) When a man or a woman commits adultery, what kind of a sin do they commit?

- i) They sin against themselves.
  - (1) They sin against their own bodies.
    - (a) 1 Corinthians 6:18
    - (b) There is something unique about the sin of immorality.
  - (2) There is no sin more harmful spiritually, mentally, physically, or emotionally than the sin of adultery.
    - (a) Many people suffer from psychological problems because of immoral relationships.
    - (b) There are social diseases that are based in immorality.
    - (c) There is talk about safe sex, but sex is not meant to be dangerous.
      - (i) It is sacred sex, not safe sex.
      - (ii) Many people want to spend six days a week sowing wild oats, and then come to church on Sunday and pray for crop failure.
        - 1. God forgives, but nature never does.

ii) Adultery is a sin against the home.

- (1) The lives of innocent children are torn apart every year because of adultery.
  - (a) The man who commits adultery tells his children that their mother is not worth much, and their father is a liar and a cheat.
  - (b) He also shows his children that honor is not as important as pleasure, and his own satisfaction is more important than they are.
- (2) Monogamous marriage, one man for one woman, was given by God the Creator for the protection and development of the deepest psychological, physical, and spiritual needs of humanity.
- (3) Marital fidelity is the glue that holds the family together, and the family is the core of society.
  - (a) The family has been established to provide love, physical care, social, and spiritual development for the children.

iii) Adultery is a sin against the church.

- (1) If a member of a church commits adultery, then that person is sinning against every other member of the church because we are all in this together.
- (2) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
  - (a) We're in it together.
  - (b) The context of this verse is about immorality.

iv) Adultery is a sin against the nation.

- (1) Adultery is an act of treason.
    - (a) It hurts every one of us.
  - (2) Proverbs 14:34
  - (3) Deuteronomy 22:22
    - (a) In the Old Testament, under the theocracy which we do not have today, the sin of adultery was worthy of capital punishment.
      - (i) They would be put to death in order to put away evil from Israel.
        1. Righteousness exalteth a nation.
          - a. Proverbs 14:34
  - (4) What does character have to do with the ability to lead a nation?
    - (a) It has everything to do with it.
  - (5) It was immorality that led to the downfall of Greece, Rome, Egypt, and Babylon.
    - (a) Unless America repents, it will be immorality that brings this nation down.
  - (6) The enemy of the home is the enemy of the nation.
    - (a) People who treat sex lightly always treat other people lightly.
      - (i) There can be no society or government without respect and mutual undergirding of one another.
- v) Adultery is a sin against the Lord.
- (1) It is a clinched fist in the face of God.
  - (2) When David committed adultery, he rightly said, “Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight.”
    - (a) Psalm 51:4
    - (b) Exodus 20:14
  - (3) Adultery shows contempt and disrespect for Almighty God.
    - (a) A person who commits adultery breaks both God’s law and God’s heart because God is a loving God, but He is also a holy God.
  - (4) God will judge the sin of adultery.
    - (a) Hebrews 13:4
    - (b) Job 31:11
    - (c) Leviticus 20:10
    - (d) Proverbs 6:27-29, 32
    - (e) 1 Corinthians 6:9
      - (i) If this is your lifestyle, then you are not going to Heaven unless you repent.
    - (f) Ephesians 5:5
    - (g) Revelation 21:8
  - (5) When God gave the Ten Commandments, He was giving law and not advice.
    - (a) Law without penalty is only advice.
  - (6) It doesn’t matter who rationalizes it or who glamorizes it.
    - (a) It is a sin against Almighty God.

- (7) Some may say that God hasn't judged them, but this is because they haven't come to judgment yet.
    - (a) Romans 2:5
      - (i) The day of wrath is not yet here, but it will come.
  - c) Because married life is such a wonderful gift, Satan has leveled all of the artillery of Hell against it.
    - i) His chief weapons are those things associated with sexuality.
- 4) THE PRESERVATION OF MARRIED LIFE (MATTHEW 19:4-5)
- a) God has given us a plan.
  - b) Matthew 19:4-5
  - c) There are six things that you can do to get your marriage on track and to keep yourself pure:
    - i) Decision
      - (1) Make a decision to live for God.
      - (2) God will not force His will upon anyone.
      - (3) Listening to sermons will not change you unless you decide to obey the Word of God.
      - (4) Joshua 24:15
      - (5) Give your heart to the Lord; give your life to Christ.
    - ii) Dependence
      - (1) It is not enough to merely decide because you do not have the strength.
      - (2) He is able to deliver you if you will trust Him.
      - (3) 1 Corinthians 10:13
    - iii) Devotion
      - (1) Love the Lord with all your heart and soul, and love your spouse.
      - (2) Love with a supernatural love.
        - (a) Let God pour His love through you.
      - (3) Husbands are to love their wives not because they feel like it, but because God commands it.
        - (a) Ephesians 5:25
      - (4) Women are to be taught to love their husbands.
        - (a) Titus 2:4
      - (5) A love for your mate comes out of a love for Almighty God.
        - (a) If Jesus Christ is first in your life, then you will be able to love your spouse with a love that you could not have had if Jesus were not first.
    - iv) Development
      - (1) Continue to feed your love from day to day.
      - (2) Love must be nurtured.
      - (3) Love is not like an exquisite gem that you hold and look at.
        - (a) Love is a growing thing.
          - (i) It is like a flower that needs to be cultivated and nurtured.

- (ii) It needs to be protected, and its full beauty will develop throughout life.
    - (4) If you don't love your spouse more now than you did when you got married, then you probably love them a lot less.
    - (5) Never flirt with anyone other than your spouse.
      - (a) You have only one sweetheart, and that is your spouse.
  - v) Discipline
    - (1) Guard your company.
      - (a) Twenty-seven times in the New Testament, we are told to flee fornication.
      - (b) Don't put yourself in bad company.
    - (2) Don't watch garbage on television.
      - (a) You wouldn't put garbage in your mouth, so don't put it in your mind.
    - (3) There is a motto that says, "He that would not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places."
    - (4) Keep yourself clean and pure, and watch what you set before your eyes.
  - vi) Determination
    - (1) Get it settled once and for all.
      - (a) Job made a covenant not to look upon a maid.
        - (i) Job 31:1
      - (b) The Psalmist's heart was fixed.
        - (i) Psalm 57:7
    - (2) Instead of making a lot of little decisions of what to do or what not to do, make one big decision that will take care of all the little decisions.
    - (3) Just make up your mind.
      - (a) Don't do this in arrogance.
      - (b) This doesn't mean that we are not depending upon the Lord.
      - (c) There needs to be a determination to say that by the grace of God, I will be pure, I will be clean, and my heart is fixed on God, trusting in Him.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) Maybe you have failed in the past, but God is a God of grace and forgiveness.
  - b) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
    - i) This passage says, "And such were some of you."
  - c) 1 John 1:9
  - d) What God has called clean, no one can call unclean.
    - i) Acts 10:15
    - ii) This does not minimize sin; it maximizes the grace of God.
  - e) John 8:3-11
    - i) The Lord Jesus did not condemn the woman taken in adultery.
    - ii) He told her to go and sin no more.

- f) John 3:17
- g) Our God is a God of a second chance.
- h) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- i) 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