


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

**Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**Genesis 2:24** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Q1. Based on these two passages from Genesis, how would you interpret God's view of marriage?

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to Him, and as was his custom, He taught them.

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

Q2. What did the Pharisees hope to accomplish by "testing" Jesus about "divorce"?

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Q3. Were the Pharisees hoping that people would become angered with Jesus' position on "divorce"? Why?

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Q4. What did Herod and Herodius do that John the Baptist pointed out? (See Lesson 7, Mark 6:14-29)

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Q5. Did anything happen to John the Baptist?

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Q6. Is it possible that the Pharisees hoped that Herod would treat Jesus the same as John the Baptist?

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Day 2

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<sup>3</sup> "What did Moses command you?" he replied.

<sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

Q7. What was a “certificate of divorce”?

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**Deuteronomy 24:1-4** [Moses on behalf of God to the Jews] 1 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, 2 and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, 3 and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, 4 then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Q8. Is it possible that some Jews listening to Jesus would have used the “certificate of divorce” to terminate their past marriages? If so, what might they feel listening to Jesus?

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<sup>5</sup> "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied.

Q9. What does “hearts were hard” mean? [Sometimes referred as “callous hearts” or “deadened hearts”]

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**Psalms 119:70-72** Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. <sup>71</sup> It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. <sup>72</sup> The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

**Proverbs 28:14** Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

**Isaiah 63:17** Why, O Lord, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.

**John 12:37-41** Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" <sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: <sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn -- and I would heal them." <sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

Q10. If you had been a Pharisee listening to Jesus, how would you have reacted to Jesus’ statement that “your hearts were hard”?

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<sup>6</sup> "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' [Genesis 1:27] <sup>7</sup> 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.' [Genesis 2:24] So they are no longer two, but one. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Q11. Do you think the Pharisees were surprised when Jesus reminded them of God's intention for "marriage" from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden?

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Q12. What impact would Jesus' teaching have had on the Jewish leaders?

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**Day 3**

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<sup>10</sup> When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. <sup>11</sup> He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

Q13. What rights did women have in this period of Jewish history?

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Q14. How did Jesus view divorce... as a legal issue... or a spiritual issue... or a human rights issue?

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Q15. How does our society view divorce? Do you think society's view is Biblically correct?


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**Matthew 5:31-32** <sup>31</sup> "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

**Day 4**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

***The Little Children and Jesus***

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

Q16. Why were the disciples so mean to the little kids?

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Q17. Do you think the disciples were justified in their actions?

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<sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.

 Can you just see Jesus exclaiming, "When are these people going to get it?!?!?".

<sup>14b</sup> He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Q18. How can adults become "like little children"?

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Q19. Is there any hope for adults?

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<sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.

***The Rich Young Man***

<sup>17</sup> As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Q20. How do we know that the man thought Jesus was someone special?

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<sup>18</sup> "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good -- except God alone.

Q21. What do you think the word "good" means in this passage?

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Q22. Why didn't Jesus reveal His Godly "goodness" to the seeker?

<sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'

<sup>20</sup> "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."


Q23. Is it possible for us to keep the commandments by ourselves?

Q24. If we fail to keep one commandment, what does that mean?

Q25. Frequently, we hear "I'm not as bad as my neighbor. Of course, I'm going to Heaven. Besides God is love. Everyone knows that!" Is this a correct viewpoint? Why? Or why not?

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Day 5**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."

Q26. What did the man "lack"?

<sup>22</sup> At this, the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

Q27. Is "wealth" an impediment to us gaining Heaven? Why? Or why not?

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Q28. How are we "saved"?

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<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

<sup>29</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields -- and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

Q29. When Jesus begins with "I tell you the truth", are we to pay special attention to His statement?

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Q30. Why do you think Peter said, "We have left everything to follow you!"? Was he worried?

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Q31. Is Jesus telling us to leave everything and witness? Or be a missionary?

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<sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Q32. What does "to serve" mean to you?

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Q33. What did Jesus mean by this statement "first will be last and the last first"?

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Q34. If there is one thing that you would like to take away from today's study, what is it?

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**Day 6**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

***Jesus Again Predicts His Death***

<sup>32</sup> They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid.

Q35. What was waiting for Jesus in Jerusalem? Why do you think that some of Jesus’ followers were “astonished” and others were “afraid”?

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<sup>32b</sup> Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>33</sup> "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, <sup>34</sup> who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Q36. What kind of Messiah were the Jews expecting?

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Q37. Do you think that the disciples had the “common” Jewish belief?

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Q38. Do you think that the disciples believed Him?

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