

Sermon: Marriage, Divorce, and the Gospel.
Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 16:18.
Date: October 12, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) In what ways (if any) has divorce affected you and/or your family?
- b) What messages about divorce have you been exposed to by the church? The culture? How have these influenced your personal view of divorce?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Read Genesis 2:24. This is the foundational marriage covenant. In what ways does this marriage covenant image God?
- b) If you are married, do you see your own marriage in Genesis 2:24? Do you primarily see your marriage as something to make you happy or holy? Explain your answer.
- c) How should the truth that marriage images God affect our view on divorce?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) In Luke 16:18, Jesus is condemning the majority view in his day about divorce – divorce is acceptable for any reason. How does “divorce for any reason” violate Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom and discipleship? Consider Luke 6:27-31; 9:23-25; 12:35-37;
- b) Christ is our ultimate spouse and lover and Bride of Christ is our ultimate identity and destiny. How does this truth allow you to fight for your marriage, forgive your ex, or seek reconciliation within a relationship?

APPLICATION

- a) If you have divorced without biblical cause, how can the gospel of grace and forgiveness allow you to grieve your divorce while also rejoicing in God’s forgiveness?
- b) How might you individually, we as a group, or the church corporately care well for the divorced in our community or those struggling in a difficult marriage?
- c) Read Hosea 2:14. This side of Heaven we are in the wilderness. In what ways can you allow Christ to “allure” you and “speak tenderly” to you while you are in the desert place of divorce, a difficult marriage, or any other wilderness?

PRAYER

- Acknowledge God’s desire for us to be holy first and happy second.
- Confess ways that your hard heart has impacted your relationships in a negative way.
- Thank Jesus for his full forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation (one day).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to “speak tenderly” and lovingly to us while we are in the desert.