

Marriage and Children
Matthew 19:1-15

Review:

1. God's standard for human intimacy is that sexual relations should only take place between one man and one woman joined together in the security of intimate union for one lifetime
2. We must uphold God's standard with the utmost of humility, not despising those who fail to reach it, but instead confessing our own sin and submitting ourselves to one another in marriage, putting our spouse's needs ahead of our own desires
3. Keeping our marriage vows gives our children a living example of the faithful, self-sacrificial love of Christ, and encourages them to draw closer to Him

Reflect:

1. Think about your own family history. How close to God's target for marriage have you come? What can you do to bring your relationships more closely into line with God's intentions?

Go further: Read Hosea 1:2; 2:2-18

1. What sort of wife does God tell Hosea to take in 1:2? Why does God tell Hosea to do this?
2. In 2:5, God speaks of His people as an unfaithful wife. What does He say the mother of His children has done? What gifts has she said her lovers have provided for her?
3. How does God say He will respond to His unfaithful wife in 2:6?
4. What does God say His wife will do as a result in 2:7? How successful will her efforts be?
5. In her frustration, what does God say His wife will say in 2:7?
6. What does God say He was responsible for giving His people in 2:8?
7. To whom did God's people give those gifts?
8. What does God say in 2:9 that He will do with His gifts to His people?
9. What does God say He will do with His unfaithful wife in 2:10?
10. What does God say He will take away from His people in 2:11?
11. What does God say He will destroy in 2:12? Why does He say He will do this?
12. How does God describe the way His people were unfaithful to Him in 2:13? Who does God say His people forgot?
13. What three things does God say He will do to His unfaithful people in 2:14?
14. What does God promise to His people in 2:15? How will the people respond to these blessings?
15. How does God describe His restored relationship with His people in 2:19?
16. Who does God say that His people will know in 2:20?
17. What blessings does God promise to His people in 2:22?
18. What does God promise to say to His people in 2:23? What will His people say in return?

Summary and Application:

1. According to 1:2, Hosea knew exactly what sort of wife he was marrying. What does his example say about the expectations we should have for our own marriages?
2. According to Hosea 1 and 2, how would you describe God's marriage to His people? How closely does God's marriage to His people fit the plan that Jesus describes in Matthew 19?
3. How did the death and resurrection of Jesus keep the promise God made to Hosea to restore God's relationship with His people?
4. Hosea describes God's people as an unfaithful wife. How does God's promise to allure and bless such a wife set an example for the way we should treat our husbands and wives?