Recycling Relationships -- A Problem of Divorce and Remarriage”

Matthew 19:1-12.

The Question

- “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?” (v. 3)
- The question was for testing not for teaching. (v. 3)
- Divorce was very common then as it is now.
- Our faith is often tested with this question.

The Response

- “Have you not read…” (v. 4)
- “Have you not read that **He who made them** at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ **5** and said, ‘**For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? **6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what **God has joined together,** let not man separate.”

The Rebuttal

- What about Moses? (Deut. 24:1-4)
- Clearly, divorce was permitted at the time of Moses.
- Jesus said this was done for a reason – "Hardness of heart". (v. 8)

The Final Authority

- “from the beginning it was not so.” (v. 8)
- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality,[d] and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” (v. 9)
- This is hard to take because of what it means to people we love (10)

The Conclusion

- Not all can accept this saying (v. 11)
- Who will accept it? Those willing to become eunuchs for the kingdom of God's sake (v. 12)
- This is a difficult saying but it is from our Lord, "...I say to you..." (v. 9)