Matthew 19:7-9

God’s View On Marriage: Part 2

* Missing the point. Mt 19:7
	+ Jesus just set forth the ideal of marriage
	+ They ask with an answer already in mind
	+ What’s your excuse?
	+ Is this something God won’t forgive?
	+ Moses commanded…allowed, Mk 10:4-5
		- There was a God-ordained legal provision
* What about Moses? Mt 19:7-9
	+ The fall
		- Who will you believe? Gen 3
		- Eve failed to ask, refused to follow
		- Adam failed to lead, refused to protect
		- Now, future disruption of God-given roles
		- Your desire shall be…, cp 16a with 4:7
		- He shall rule over you, 16b
	+ The law
		- Exod 20 (statute), the ten commandments
		- Deut 22 (case law), God prescribed the death penalty in cases of adultery
		- Prov 5-7 (wisdom literature)
		- John 8, who could cast the first stone?
	+ The heart
		- How hard is your heart? Mt 19:8; Jer 17:9
		- God takes no pleasure in death, Ezk 33:11
		- God may show mercy to the adulterer
		- But NOT to punish the offended spouse
			* The widow is free to remarry, Rom 7:1-4
	+ The grounds
		- Exod 21:7-11 (case law, what principle)
			* Even the most vulnerable have rights
			* Material provision: food, clothing
			* Physical affection: marital rights
			* If the covenant is broken, she is free to leave
		- Deut 24:1-4
			* Protasis (if): some indecency, bill of divorce, she marries another, is hated, gets another bill of divorce (or dies [equivalent])
			* Apodosis (then): don’t return to the first
			* “Some indecency.” ‘the nakedness of a thing’ points to sexual sin, thus Mt 19:9
	+ The examples
		- Joseph was preparing to divorce Mary, and was called righteous, Mt 1:18-20
		- God divorced Israel, Jer 3:8. Yet He called her to return! Jer 3:1, 7, 10, 12, 14; 4:1, 4
	+ Hosea
		- The death-bed prophet of Israel, c730BC
		- Take a wife of whoredom, 1:2
		- 3, Jezreel (bore *him* a son); 6, No Mercy; 8, Not My People
		- Plead with her, 2:2
		- Protect her, 2:6
		- Provide for her, 2:8
		- Gomer has become a cult prostitute in service of Baal, 2:8, 12, 13
		- God points to a New Covenant (marriage) in love and mercy, 2:16-23
		- Go again, love a woman…adulteress, 3:1
		- He bought her back at great cost, 3:2