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