

Divorce: Man's Failed Attempt to Find Happiness

Matthew 5:31-32

Intro

"You have heard that it was said...But I say to you..."

Jesus has not departed from His original thesis in the *Beatitudes*:

what it takes to make people happy.

"Man is never happy, but spends his whole life striving after something he thinks will make him so." (Schopenhauer)

Relationships lost their original intent and meaning when mankind fell into sin and became *self-seeking*.

"If one imagines [society's] prohibitions lifted—if, then, one may take any woman one pleases as a sexual object, if one may without hesitation kill one's rival for her love or anyone else who stands in one's way, if, too, one can carry off any of the other man's belongings without asking—how splendid, what a string of satisfaction life would be!" (Freud).

"one feels inclined to say that the intention that man should be 'happy' is not included in the plan of 'Creation'"

We do not have a *right* to happiness

"Earthly pleasures and earthly sources of happiness, though given by God to be enjoyed fully, pose a certain danger, Lewis believes, when they become the primary purpose of our lives. They may not only mislead us into thinking this world our permanent residence, but may also detract from our relationship with God" (Nicholi).

"Indeed the best thing about happiness itself is that it liberates you from thinking about happiness" (C.S. Lewis).

God's Intention in the Creation of Marriage

Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:21-24

1. Man was uniquely and intentionally created for *relationship*

"Let us make man in our image..." (Genesis 1:26)

The *first time* God refers to Himself in the *plural* form (*elohim*).

Our God is a *Trinitarian* God: He exists in plurality and perfect unity in a harmonious relationship: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. God created another human being *comparable*, yet *complementary* to the man.

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit/suitable/comparable NKJ for him’” (Genesis 2:18)

Exactly like him in *species* (human). Entirely different in *gender* (female).

“heirs with you of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7).

“...in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

“there was not found a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:20).

Man cannot be satisfied relationally, which is essential to his nature, by any created being other than one like himself—*human*—with the capacity for loving, communicating, understanding and serving one another.

3. God created “woman” out of the bone and flesh of the man.

“Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man’” (Genesis 2:23).

The song of Adam is more factual than sentimental.

4. God establishes the ‘one flesh’ unity of marriage for all time.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:24-25).

There is no provision for sex outside of marriage with someone other than one’s spouse.

“When I have learned to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now. In so far as I learn to love my earthly dearest at the expense of God and instead of God, I shall be moving towards that state in which I shall not love my earthly dearest at all. When first things are put first, second things are not suppressed but increased” (C.S. Lewis).

“seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).