

## How to be a Loser

### *Step Five: Look Out for #1 (And You're Not It)*

September 27, 2009

#### **Matthew 19:1-12**

1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." 11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

## Discussion Questions

What are some things that just aren't the same when they're split up?

Do most people see marriage in the same way?

How would you answer the Pharisees question in verse three?

How do you think most people would answer?

Jesus quotes Genesis to describe God's will for marriage.

What do you think when you read this passage?

So if divorce isn't seen as the ideal and marriage is regarded with some importance, why is divorce so common (even in the church)?

What do you think Jesus' remedy for that is?

Why doesn't Jesus dismiss the statement made by the disciples?

What does this say about the importance of marriage vows?

If you could sum up Jesus' teachings here in a short sentence, what would it be?