

# What God has Joined Together

Matthew 19



- Divorce, monogamy, and celibacy
- The setting: Yeshua leaves the Galilee and will not return until after His death and resurrection
- The Book of Mark parallel account Mark 10:1 – 12
- There are differences between Matthew and Mark

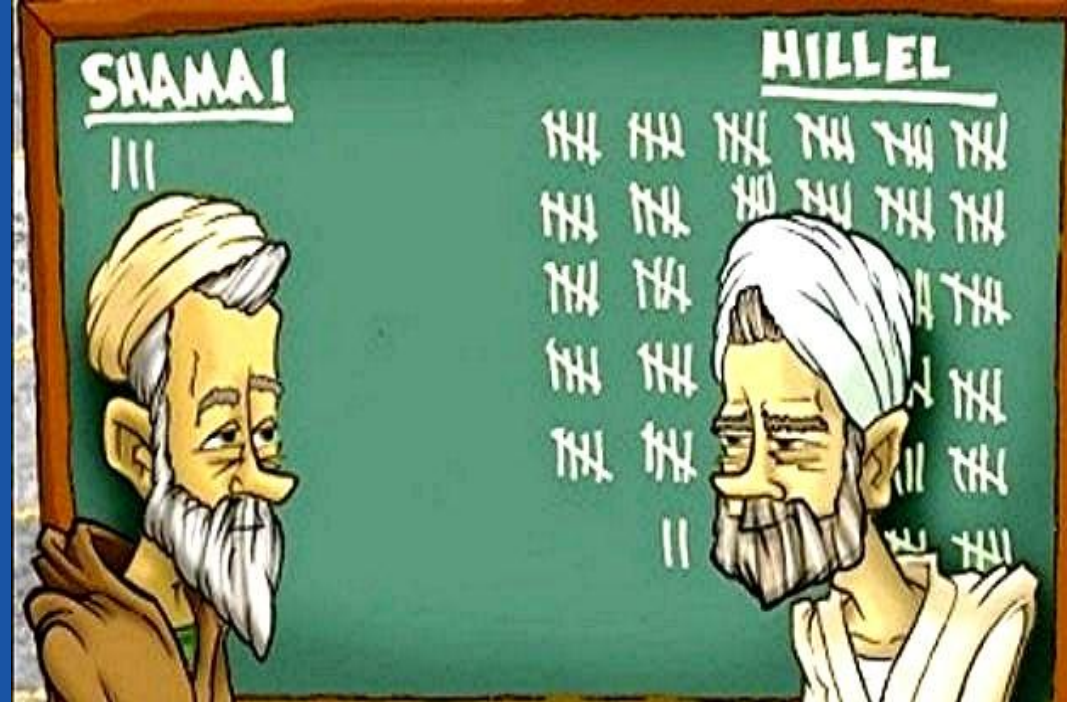
# GOOD-BYE TO GALILEE



- Yeshua going to Judea
- Would not go through Samaria
- He didn't hate the Samaritans, but Jews in general did
- Jesus honored Jewish cultural norms by going through Perea and avoiding Samaria
- Large crowds still followed after Him
- His heart was for the downtrodden, so He healed them

# HILLEL vs. SHAMAI

- **Peirazo** = test someone to ascertain what they are thinking
- Not a trap; it's a legitimate question
- Mark: ...*lawful to permit a man to divorce...*
- Matthew: ...*lawful... on any ground whatsoever*
- **Exesti** = lawful, permitted



# THE ISSUE SHIFTS TO MONOGAMY

THEREFORE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER  
AND HIS MOTHER AND HOLD FAST TO HIS WIFE,

*and they shall become  
one flesh.*

GENESIS 2:24

- For the Pharisees' question to be properly answered, Yeshua takes them back to Creation
- The Divorce Clause of the Law: Deut. 24:1 – 4
- Genesis 1:27 is joined with Genesis 2:24
- For Yeshua marriage, divorce, and monogamy are all wrapped up together

# DIVORCE



# & THE

# HARDNESS OF HEART

**MATTHEW 19:8**

- Pharisees respond to Yeshua by asking then why did Moses say a man must give a *get* to divorce his wife?
- Yeshua shunned Hillel's liberal divorce *Halakhah* in favor of Shammai's
- When Jews say "When Moses allowed..." it doesn't mean that they think Moses created the laws and commandments
- Pharisees wanted to follow their divorce Traditions just as does many branches of the modern Church

# IS SINGLENES BETTER THAN MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?



- For the 12 Disciples, the flexible ability to divorce according to the Pharisees just evaporated!
- A hard teaching that goes against centuries of Jewish Traditions
- Matthew 13:11 ***“secrets... not been given to them”***
- Being single and adult as a Jewish male was not the norm



- In Jewish society co-habitation would have brought unbearable shame
- Today young couples prefer to live together largely to avoid commitment and entangled financial obligations
- 1Corinthians 7:1 – 16
- For Paul, marriage was fraught with dangers of sin



ARRANGED  
MARRIAGE OF  
YOUNG GIRLS WAS  
THE NORM

- Essenes allowed no divorce for any reason...so there seemed be far fewer marriages in their sect!
- A maiden (virgin) was transferred from the authority of her father directly to the authority of her husband
- Many of the rules were for the benefit of the woman
- A *get* freed a woman from her husband's authority
- Divorce was strictly in the hands of the males





# Why did God allow polygamy in the Bible?

- Polygamy among Jews was mostly in the Holy Land, but it is not known how widespread it was
- Roman law put a crimp on polygamy in their empire
- Exodus 21:10 *“If he marries another wife...”*
- Deuteronomy 21:15 – 17 *“If a man has 2 wives...”*
- God seemed to tolerate polygamy but did not recommend or advocate it

# DEAD SEA SCROLLS



- By the 1<sup>st</sup> century polygamy had mostly died out due to the financial stress of having 2 wives!
- Damascus Documents *“They (Pharisees) are caught by 2 snares... By sexual sin...”*
- Essenes also pronounced King David innocent of polygamy because the Book of Deuteronomy was the in the Ark and not available to him

# THE TEMPLE SCROLL



- Essenes' 2<sup>nd</sup> argument against polygamy: Lev.18:18
- ***Achoth*** now known to mean sister or “other”
- They translated Lev. 18:18 as: ***“And he shall not take another wife, for she alone will be with him all the days of her life”***
- Yeshua devolved to the polygamy/monogamy issue to straighten out the Pharisees' wrong doctrines