

THE CAUSE OF DIVORCE

Matthew 19.1-12

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Jesus here states that it is God alone who authors marriage, and we see that it is also God alone who is able to give permission for a marriage to end. The implication of this are great, and important for each of us to consider deeply. He also gives us insight into a very important truth, and that's the deeper cause for divorce: the hardness of our hearts.

All sinful actions start with a hardening of the heart.

THE PROGRESSION OF SIN

The Word of God shows us that the "slippery slope" is real. However, we very, very rarely are able to see it, even when it is pointed out to us. We need the Word to show us clearly, and we need the people in our lives to bring that Word to us help us see it.

Hebrews 3.12, 13

The heart controls everything we do and say. It is the steering wheel. Lasting change always takes place through the pathway of the heart, and so heart change is always the goal, because something or someone is always ruling our hearts. Our deepest issues are not issues of pain and suffering, but issues of worship. What we worship will dictate how we respond to pain and suffering.

James 4.1, 2 // Proverbs 7.1-5, 21-27

How Desire Takes Control

1. Desire: "I want." Nothing wrong yet.

2. Demand: "I must." The desire is no longer an expression of love for God and man, but something I crave for myself.

3. Need: "I will." Something desirable is now seen as essential. I'm convinced that I can't live without it.

4. Expectation: "You should." This is where my relationships begin to be affected. If I believe I have a need, I expect others to make it happen if they really love me.

5. Disappointment: "You didn't!" Here the anger breaks out and becomes personal. You are standing in the way of what rules my heart.

6. Punishment: "Because you didn't, I will..." I respond to you in anger (silent treatment, hurtful words, vengeance, etc.)

DON'T HIDE: FIGHTING THE HARDNESS OF OUR HEART

Hebrews 13.13 // 2 Corinthians 10.3-7

Remembering the context of Matthew 19, we just heard Jesus talk about the need for Gospel community to come alongside to encourage, disciple, and even challenge and help bring godly discipline into our lives. We need each other to help us see what needs to be "cut off," so that the hardening of our hearts will not eventually bring about death.



NOTES:

Lust, Divorce, and Remarriage Sermon

In this sermon from July 2014, Pastor Jobey goes through the big questions and theological underpinnings of divorce and remarriage. Email him at jobey@lifemission.tv if you would also like the notes from that sermon to follow along with.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci3pjnp3IA

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Please visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

Our **High School students** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 19.1-12**. What stuck out to you the most in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

When you read Jesus' words here, why do you think he gives adultery as the one particular reason that a believer could divorce their believing spouse? _____

Marriage is a special gift from God to give us a picture of His love and commitment and unity with us. This is, in part, why He loves marriage so dearly. Jesus makes the point to say that divorce was not intended to be a normal or expected thing. But what happened to humanity that brought about this new possibility of divorce? _____

Jesus specifically gives the reason as being the "hardness of our hearts." In your own words, how does the hardening of your heart begin, and where does it lead to if gone unchecked? Be detailed and thorough, even thinking through a real example that you might share. _____

Read **Hebrews 3.12, 13**. What is the progression that **Hebrews** shows us? Now, read **James 4.1.2**. What does James show us that actually causes us to sin? _____

Look at the progression under **How Sin Takes Control** in the sermon notes. Can you think of examples in your own life how you have seen this pattern take place? Share that example. _____

What are some *bad* examples of how we usually try to "fix the problem? _____

What is the real, and only solution for us to really put away these desires and uproot them? _____

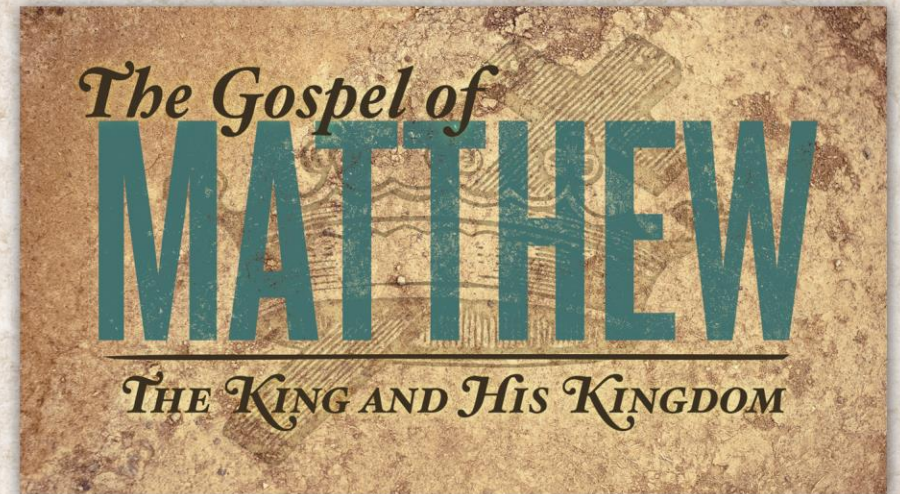
Tonight, spend some time confessing sin to one another. Confess areas of your life that have gotten hardened by the deception of sin. Spend time as a group PRAYing together, and specifically ask Him to help your group get more comfortable, transparent, and real with one another.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

Pastor Jobey McGinty
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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



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Matthew 19.1-12 // September 20, 2015

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

