

discussion guide for May 6th

*“EXTREME MAKEOVER-Week 4”*

Changed By Christ’s Toughest Words – Your Marriage Viewpoint

Matthew 5:31-32 (p. 1254-DSB\*)

GRIND IT  
BREW IT  
DRINK IT  
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Begin group time by discussing expectations of marriage in American culture. (Select one or two)

- Based on your personal knowledge, what do you understand the expectations were for marriage in the 1950’s?
- Based on your personal knowledge, what do you understand the expectations were for marriage in the 1970’s?
- 20 years ago, many predicted the demise of marriage in America. Is that prediction moving toward or away from fulfillment?
- What was the expectation for marriage when you were 17-18 years old?
- What is the expectation for marriage in today’s young adults? (See charts provided from recent California study.)

\*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Who invented marriage? Does it make sense to ask the inventor of something if you were to have questions about how it should work? Jesus has some guidance for those involved in or considering marriage in Mt. 5:31-32.

1. Describe the differences between the popular expectation of marriage in Jesus’ day and the standard for marriage that Jesus taught in Mt. 5:31-32, (p. 1254, DSB\*).
2. Which view most resembles the general expectation of marriage in America today? Explain.
3. Was Jesus’ standard of marriage given in Mt. 5:31-32? (p. 1254, DSB\*), something new or something old? Explain. (See Gen. 2:23-24, p. 6, DSB\*; Mt. 19:3-9, p. 1289, DSB\*)
4. In Mt. 19:3-9 (p. 1289, DSB\*), Jesus taught a “hard line” on the expectation of marriage. How do you explain the idea of “one-flesh”? What does Jesus mean by “hard hearts” in vs. 8?
5. What were the disciples’ reaction to Jesus’ expectation of marriage in Mt. 19:10, (p. 1289, DSB\*)? Does that reaction somewhat parallel that of today’s young adults? Explain.
6. Based on what you have read, what is God’s design for marriage? Was God’s design meant to be prohibitive or protective? In other words, did God design marriage to keep something from you, or to keep you from something? Why?

\*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Pastor Tom applied Jesus' teachings on marriage to three groups. Take notes as your group discusses these applications and makes additional biblical application.

To singles: (Marry Wisely)

To marrieds: (Grow Deliberately)

To remarrieds: (Learn Humbly)

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for wisdom in building and maintaining a biblical marriage. Pray for marriages in need of God's special attention.
- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving \_\_\_\_\_ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the "Savor" section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving these in a daily e-mail, [Sign up for "The Daily Cup" e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](mailto:herb@hbcaustin.org)

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)\*\*

Last week you explored Jesus' teaching about the marriage relationship. These passages and questions will help reinforce and expand upon what you learned.

Monday, May 7: Read Genesis 2:18-25, (p. 5-6-DSB\*). Who invented marriage? What reason did God give? Is "one flesh" more than a poetic coupling of words? What happens to life when flesh is torn apart? Are we diligent about protecting and nurturing our flesh? What about our marriage?

Tuesday, May 8: Read Ephesians 5:22-27, (p. 1565-DSB\*). What does God expect of wives? Of husbands? Are these expectations reasonable? What do you make of the use of the relationship between God and the church as an example of the marriage relationship? What importance/priority does God place on marriage?

Wednesday, May 9: Read Ephesians 5:31-33, (p. 1565-DSB\*). What does the church receive from God? (Love, mercy, guidance, wisdom, etc.) What does God receive from the church? (Reverence and respect.) What is the "mystery" Paul refers to in verse 32?

Thursday, May 10: Read Ephesians 5:31-33, (p. 1565-DSB\*). Marriage is about meeting one another's greatest need. What is woman's greatest need? What is a man's? What makes a wife feel love? What makes a husband feel respect?

Friday, May 11: Read Luke 20:13, (p. 1378-DSB\*). Who does the owner of the vineyard represent? Who did the owner of the vineyard send? Who do you understand the son of the vineyard owner to represent? What did the owner of the vineyard expect in return? What parts do love and respect play in a marriage relationship? How is a marriage a reflection of God's relationship with His church?

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