

BIBLE DISCOVERY

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LUKE: Cost of Discipleship

Luke 16:18

We're diving back into the Gospel of Luke. After nine chapters introducing us to Jesus and His call, Luke now takes us with Him on the road to Jerusalem (Luke 9-19). Along the way, we'll hear some of Jesus' most famous teachings and stories, as He shows us what it truly costs to follow Him and why following Him is worth everything.

The Big Idea

(What is the author's point?)

Part of growing as a healthy Christ-centered church is understanding the Bible's high view of marriage, the heartbreak of divorce and the gospel hope for those remarried, divorced and married.

Why It Matters

(Why is this relevant to us?)

We live in a world that sees marriage as a social contract. But we believe that it's a God-designed covenant meant to reflect deep, lifelong unity. In fact, on the second page of the Bible, Scripture describes marriage as two people becoming "one flesh," a bond meant to endure and not be casually broken. When that bond fractures, it doesn't just "end a relationship," it tears apart something God designed to be whole.

That's why divorce is so painful. It brings emotional, relational and even spiritual devastation. Many describe it as a kind of death. It impacts not just individuals, but families, children and entire communities.

At the same time, the Bible is not silently judgmental or overly simplistic about the reality of divorce. God loves to roll up His sleeves and get into the mess with His grace! While Scripture upholds a high view of marriage and warns against casual divorce, it also recognizes the brokenness of the human heart and the complexity of real-life situations. Divorce was never God's design, but it is something He addresses with both truth and compassion.

And this is where the gospel speaks powerfully. Divorce is not the unforgivable sin. Nor is it the "end of the road." There is forgiveness. There is healing. There is a future. God meets people in the middle of their failure, pain and regret with grace that restores and renews.

Good to Know

(What are some helpful insights into this passage?)

“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery...” (Luke 16:18). Why such clear and difficult words from Jesus? A low view of marriage often leads to a low view of divorce, but according to Jesus, marriage matters!

“What God has joined together, let not man separate” (Mark 10:9). The majority of Rabbi's in Jesus' day were pushing to relax divorce laws in order to give unsatisfied husbands an easier way out of marriage. Jesus actively pushed against that by refocusing on God's "one flesh" covenant for marriage laid out by Moses in Genesis 2:24.

Of course, because of sin, divorce has always been a reality, even among God's people. God gave His people instructions on marriage and divorce to limit abuse and protect the vulnerable, especially women (**Deuteronomy 24:1-4**). He tolerates divorce even while hating its effects (**Malachi 2:16**).

Paul, too, recognized marriage as a sacred covenant and urged believers to remain committed to their marriage and pursue reconciliation whenever possible (**1 Corinthians 7:10-11**).

In the end, our hope is not in our ability to have happy marriages, but in the Good News that Jesus forgives and heals sinners! No matter where you are in life, there is hope because of Jesus!



**THIS WEEK'S
Bible Discovery Author**
Pastor Ryan Morrison

Group Guide

Following the series with your group?

- Start with some [icebreaker questions](#).
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

Conversation Starters

1. Why does having a biblically-rooted "high view" of marriage matter in a culture like ours?
2. Share about how your family has been affected by marriage and divorce. What has God redeemed and healed?
3. When you hear Jesus' words in Luke 16:18, what stands out most? Clarity, difficulty, conviction or something else? Why?
4. If married, what are some practical ways you can actively "hold fast" to your spouse this season (Genesis 2:24)?

5. If single, how does Jesus' high view of marriage shape the way you think about dating, commitment and choosing a spouse?

6. What does it look like for our church to be a place that both upholds biblical truth and offers real healing for those affected by divorce?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for guiding us back to the Father's good design for marriage. We ask that you would give us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in every way and encourage us to obey you and cherish marriage for the good of your people and the Glory of God. Amen.