

"JESUS AND JUST YOU" John Greene, Senior Pastor

MATTHEW 19:3-12; Mark 3:31-35 (NASB)

FACT: This generation in American history will remain single longer than any other generation before it.

FACT: Today the average age for a first marriage in America is about 30 for men and 28 for women, which is the highest it's ever been.

FACT: By the time today's young people reach age 50, 1 out of 4 would have been single all their life.

What's Jesus' message on singleness?

I. JESUS REDEFINES SINGLENESS FROM A CURSE TO A CALLING.

TRUTH: No-fault divorce and adultery were the norm in Jesus' day.

INSIGHT: Singleness is a calling for a time or for life.

TRUTH: In Christ, lifelong singles—either by choice so as not to marry the wrong one or in answer to a holy calling—bear no stigma in Heaven.

MYTH: Marriage = Completion

TRUTH: Singleness for a time or for life is a calling.

TRUTH: Don't try to make marriage happen; singleness is not a curse if you see it as Christ defined it: a calling.

II. A GOSPEL TOUR ON SINGLENESS

1. Mark 3:31-35

TRUTH: Jesus was saying He had a family more important than even His biological one.

INSIGHT: The nuclear family (parents and children) is not the center of God's Kingdom.

2. Luke 11:27

Jesus said, "Nope, those who obey the Word of God are more blessed and precious to Me than even My own biological mother. Being My brother, My mom, not that big a deal...being united to Me by baptism and having My Spirit dwelling in you...Big Deal."

3. Mark 12:18-25

INSIGHT: In heaven, marriage, father, mother, children don't exist.

TRUTH: Marriage and singleness are temporary gifts God gives to fulfill His purposes on earth in this age but not the next one.

INSIGHT: If God calls you to singleness, for a season or for life, He will supply you with all the necessary graces to live a happy and fulfilled life in it.

III. MAKE ROOM IN YOUR LIFE FOR GOD'S CALL (Matthew 19:12).

How do you make room for God's calling to singleness?

- 1. Devote yourself to God.
- 2. Leverage your singleness for all it's worth.
- 3. Lean into the forever family.
- 4. If you want to get married or believe it's God's will, use this time of singleness to grow in Jesus.

INSIGHT: Don't obsess on finding who is right for you; focus on becoming the person you should be.

CHALLENGE: Become the person that the person you are looking for is looking for.

TO "THE HILL": SINGLES AREN'T PROJECTS TO FIX BUT TREASURES TO EMBRACE.