

Jesus, Our Anchor

Matthew 19:1-12

Lent 3—March 18, 2020

Introduction

I want to take a slightly different look at this teaching on divorce. One of the biblical pictures of Christ and His church is the **BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE**. In marriage, the two become one. This is a permanent bond. If we look at the relationship with Christ this way, we see that when we are **united** with Christ, it's a **permanent** bond.

The Tie that Binds

This **permanent** bond of marriage was meant to last for **all time**. The **permanent** bond we have with Christ is meant to last for **eternity**. What is the bond that ties us together? It's simple, really. The bond that holds us together like **GORILLA GLUE** is love. That's why couples should never get married because of romantic love. Romantic love burns hot and causes us to not think clearly. But romantic love doesn't burn very long. Time is the enemy of romantic love, quenching it with ease. When that love dies, there's nothing to hold the two together.

A Love that Lasts

There is a love that lasts. God's love, **AGAPE**, is a love that lasts. It doesn't burn out. If two people come together under God and His love, they'll have a bond that will last. Now, because we're fallen, that doesn't guarantee their union. The love that God has for us is an **everlasting** love (*Psalm 103:17-18*).

Unconditional Love

Another difference between God's love and ours is that His love is **unconditional**. We always must have a reason to love someone. Jim Reeves sang the song "I Love You Because" that went like this:

I love you because you understand, dear
Every single thing I try to do
You're always there to lend a helping hand, dear
I love you most of all because you're you.

Even our love for God is **conditional**. *We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19 KJV)*. But God's love is **unconditional**. He loves because *He is love (1 John 4:8)*.

Our Anchor

Because His love for us is **everlasting** and **unconditional**, He will never leave us or forsake us. He will always be with and for us, no matter what. When a ship is in a storm, a good **anchor** keeps it from being tossed about by the wind and waves. Because of His love for us, the writer of the book of **Hebrews** calls Jesus our **Anchor (Hebrews 6:13-20)**. What makes Jesus our **Anchor**? The book of **Hebrews** says that He has gone *behind the curtain (v. 19)*, that is into the **HOLY OF HOLIES**. He has done

this as our **High Priest**. Where did Jesus become our High Priest? On the cross, where He offered the sacrifice of Himself for our sins.

Anchored in His Blood

Jesus is our **High Priest** and our **Anchor** because of His **sacrifice** on the cross. You might say His blood is the **GORILLA GLUE** that holds us together. Because of His **everlasting, unshakable** love for us, He is our **ANCHOR** that keeps us from crashing. We can trust Him for our **salvation**, because He will never leave us or forsake us.

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
