

Deuteronomy 24:1-22 (April 30, 2021)

Reflection: *How does developing a deep theology on different social issues and handling different relationships help us as Christians?*

Read Deuteronomy 24:1-5

1. Summarize this section's teaching on divorce and the public duty of newly married men?
2. Malachi 2:16 (NIV) says, "'The man who hates and divorces his wife,' says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'does violence to the one he should protect,' says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful." From this passage we can clearly see that God hates divorce and this preface the discussion found in Matthew 19. Read Matthew 19:3-9. In this passage Jesus is asked "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" How does Jesus answer their question and show that the pharisee's view of marriage is all wrong?
3. In your own view, how does the world see divorce or remarriage? What are some worldly reasons that people get divorced? How does the Christian view differ from the world's perspective?

4. Do you think there are reasons Christians can be divorced and/or remarried?

Read Deuteronomy 24:6-22

5. Summarize Moses' commands and the rationale about taking a millstone as a debt (v.6), a person caught kidnapping one of his brothers (v.7), leprous disease and priests (v.8-9), the correct etiquette of receiving a returned loan (v.10-13), how should you to treat hired hands (v.14-16), how aliens, fatherless, and widows should be treated (v.17-18), reaping the harvest of your field (v.19-22)
6. How does the New Testament speaking of our role as Christians in treating the poor and vulnerable (cf. Matt 5:42, 25:35, Acts 20:35, Jas 1:27, 1 John 3:17-18)? What would you say to Christians who say they have no interest in these areas? What are some practical things we personally can do to engage the poor and vulnerable?

We as believers should not shy away from growing in our knowledge of how God desires for his people to live in these different social situations. Perhaps in today's discussion of divorce, remarriage, and how to treat the poor and vulnerable these specific situations may not be directly related to us today, however, some universal principles and lessons can be derived from these passages and as God's people we should look to understand God's desire for us in these relationships and for it to transform the way we live.