

Personal & Group Study Guide: September 11, 2022
Message Series: DEEP TRACKS: The Lesser-Known Teachings of Jesus
Message Title: JESUS and DIVORCE

Series Intro: Anyone can sing along to the hits, but it takes a true fan to know the *deep tracks* - an album's less popular songs that get buried between the more radio-friendly Billboard bops. If Jesus' teachings were an album or a playlist, scattered among his *greatest hits* (*The Good Samaritan*, *The Golden Rule*, *Love One Another*) you'd also find his *deep tracks* that may shock or even offend you - such as *Hate Your Parents*, *Die Fig Tree Die*, and *I Came to Bring the Sword!* What are we supposed to do with the most confounding things that Jesus had to say? Join us Sept 11 - Oct 9 as we explore the deep tracks of Jesus.

What are "deep tracks", and what is the purpose of this message series?

Whether directly or indirectly, how has divorced impacted your life? How has divorce affected you personally?

Generally speaking, Jesus has a reputation for being very loving and extremely kind. What, then, do you think the average person today might assume that Jesus said about a topic as delicate and potentially painful as divorce?

Matthew 19:3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus this? Why do people often resort to making things political instead of getting personal with God?

DIVORCE is THEOLOGICAL, NOT MERELY LEGAL or POLITICAL.

Deuteronomy 24:1 If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house...

What were the "two camps" of teaching about divorce in the first-century Jewish world, and how did they differ?

Matt. 19:4-6 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

How did Jesus' view of divorce contradict both popular views (Shammai & Hillel) in his day?

GOD CREATED MARRIAGE in the BEGINNING. MAN CREATED DIVORCE after the FALL.

Matt. 9:7-9 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

How did the Pharisees misinterpret Moses' divorce law? How is a *command* different from a *concession*?

DIVORCE is a CONCESSION, not a COMMAND

What good news does the Bible offer to people who've been impacted by divorce, and especially those who've been through divorces of their own?