

Sermon Outline

September 7 – “No Shortcuts to Glory”
Philippians 2:1-11

✝ Our Desire for Shortcuts

✝ The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

✝ The Way of Jesus

- The path it takes
- Where it leads

✝ There are no Shortcuts to Glory

✝ I want to be like Jesus!

Points to Ponder to Prepare

September 14 – “Brokenness and Grace”
Matthew 19:1-12

We return back to Matthews Gospel this week to Jesus’ response to a question about marriage and divorce. Read Matthew 19:1-12.

Some background helps here. The Pharisees spent time dissecting the commands of the early books of the Bible and interpreting them. In this case, two prominent Pharisees of an earlier generation had disagreed about divorce, The Pharisees asked Jesus who was right.

In this case the passage in question is Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Take a minute to look this up. The debate is about the emphasis on “displeasing” and “something indecent” in Deuteronomy 24:1. The question they ask is can a man divorce his wife for “any and every reason”, merely something he finds displeasing and doesn’t like, or does there need to be more weighty cause.

Jesus’ answer is not so much an interpretation of Deut. 24 as it is an interpretation of the foundational word of scripture on marriage found in Genesis 2. God’s intention for marriage (and all our sexuality) is one man and one woman “as long as we both shall live.”

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday September 7	II Corinthians 5:11-21
Monday September 8	II Corinthians 6:1-13
Tuesday September 9	II Corinthian 6:14 – 7:7
Wed September 10	II Corinthians 7:8-16
Thursday September 11	II Corinthians 8:1-15
Friday September 12	II Corinthians 8:16-24
Saturday September 13	II Corinthians 9:1-15
Sunday September 14	II Corinthians 10:1-18

Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus this week is on marriages and intimate relationships in our church and community.

May the Father’s love for his children and Christ’s love for his church which he pours into us, overflow out of us as love between husbands and wives.

May our Christian lives of humility, compassion and service begin at home.

May the heat of disagreements, disappointments and conflict show us our need to be made pure in our hearts and turn towards God’s grace every day.

May patience, forgiveness and endurance cover over a multitude of sins.