

# A DEEPER DIVE

January 11, 2025

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – NIV.

**Prayer Focus** – Each day this week as you meet with your savior. When you do, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war and little hope, also the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

**Monday: Reading**– Genesis 1-2.

## Consider this–

Before we get into the various ways the verses about marriage are interpreted, it would be a good idea to go back in the scriptures and look at the creation story. What was the original intent for the creation of the man and the woman? How would you describe what their relationship was like, and was supposed to continue to be like? What destroyed that relationship? What are the effects of that today? Do you see the remnants of those choices and effects in your relationships?

**Tuesday: Reading**– Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-10; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Deuteronomy 24:1

## Consider this–

When asked about marriage in Matthew 19, Jesus makes a kind of snarky comment when he asks the Pharisees, “Haven’t you read...?” Well, of course they had, Jesus knew they had, and he knew what they were up to. What were they up to? Why did they ask him about marriage? Look at verses 7 and 8 in Matthew 19. How did the Pharisees inaccurately pose their question, and how did Jesus correct this inaccuracy? Do you think this was an honest mistake on their part? Why or why not? Jesus also says, “it was not this way from the beginning.” What does he mean by that?

**Wednesday: Reading**– 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Deuteronomy 24:1

## Consider this–

In Corinthians Paul goes into some detail about marriage. Far more detail than did Jesus in Matthew 5. What do you know of the church in Corinth? If the answer is, “not much” you can find some information here – <https://www.gotquestions.org/church-in-Corinth.html>.

Why is it helpful to know to whom Paul was speaking when reading his instructions in his letter to the Corinthians? In the beginning of chapter 7 Paul tells his readers that he is answering questions that the people in the Corinthian church wrote asking him. How do we take what he said in answer to their questions as wisdom for us in this century?

**Thursday: Reading**– Deuteronomy 24:1-5; Exodus 21: 10-11

### **Consider this–**

Sometimes it seems that we think there is only one verse in the Bible about divorce. But it's a complicated issue and there are various passages that deal with the subject. Sometimes I have heard speakers talk about adultery as the one and only reason for divorce, and really, not even then. That has brought up lots of discussions in our present day about neglect, abuse, dominance, etc. The passage in Exodus 21 is very interesting in light of what other passages say about divorce. Do you think we can take anything from this passage and apply it to present-day circumstances?

**Friday: Reading–** Malachi 2:16

### **Consider this–**

“For I hate divorce,’ says the Lord, the God of Israel.” (NASB). This verse is mentioned quite often in churches when pastors are teaching about divorce. Why does the Lord say he hates divorce? God’s people are supposed to be different, “set apart” from the nonbelievers (John 17:16; 1 Peter 2:9). Many polls show that the divorce rate for people who attend church and that of those who do not is roughly equal. What do you think God thinks about this?

**Saturday: Reading–** Genesis 2:18, 24; Matthew 19:5,6; Mark 10: 9; Malachi 2:14; Ephesians 4:32; 5:22-28.

### **Consider this–**

How is the relationship between a man and a woman supposed to look? How should it look to outsiders? How should it be inside the home when nobody is watching? How has pride, sin, selfishness etc., disrupted God’s plan for our relationships?

**Sunday:** Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at [stvc13@gmail.com](mailto:stvc13@gmail.com).