



# Daily Reflections

**August 17, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 19: 3-12**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,  
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?"

He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning  
the Creator made them male and female and said,

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

They said to him, "Then why did Moses command  
that the man give the woman a bill of divorce and dismiss her?"

He said to them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts

Moses allowed you to divorce your wives,  
but from the beginning it was not so.

I say to you, whoever divorces his wife

(unless the marriage is unlawful)

and marries another commits adultery."

His disciples said to him,

"If that is the case of a man with his wife,  
it is better not to marry."

He answered, "Not all can accept this word,  
but only those to whom that is granted.

Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so;

some, because they were made so by others;  
some, because they have renounced marriage  
for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven.  
Whoever can accept this ought to accept it."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Christian teaching on the Sacrament of Matrimony is described very clearly by Our Lord. Marriage exists between one man and one woman for life. Any other combination or configuration does not have the dignity of a Christian Sacrament. Period.

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## **Food for your Journey**

When God makes a covenant with us, God says: "I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me or betray me." In our society we don't speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. When we make a contract with a person, we say: "I will fulfill my part as long as you fulfill yours. When you don't live up to your promises, I no longer have to live up to mine." Contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms.

But God didn't make a contract with us; God made a covenant with us, and God wants our relationships with one another to reflect that covenant. That's why marriage, friendship, life in community are all ways to give visibility to God's faithfulness in our lives together.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith* (Harper Collins, 1997).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

God our Father, we give You thanks

for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love,

and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife enriches Your Church with children, fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service and is the sign of

the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for His Church. The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana at the request of the Blessed Mother. May Your Son through the intercession of Mary, pour out upon us a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we join with all people of good will to promote and protect the unique beauty of marriage. May Your Holy Spirit enlighten our society to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife, and guide our leaders to sustain and protect the singular place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children. Father, we ask that our prayers be joined to those of the Virgin Mary, that Your Word may transform our service so as to safeguard the incomparable splendor of marriage. We ask all these things through Christ our Lord, Amen.