

## Malachi 2:16

***"For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."***

I have to be honest with you, that today's devotional is a little hard to write or teach on, since I have been married and divorced more than once. But then we are all sinners and that should not stop us from telling about the goodness and love and grace and mercy of God. And He is the only reason I can teach on this this subject today. If He has me teaching it, then there may be some of you that really need to hear this, or there maybe those in your life that you need to share this with.

But being divorced, I know how much time, and money and effort it takes to divorce someone. Maybe some, or even a lot of you have been divorced, or you are from a divorced family, or know someone who has been divorced. Some of you may even be thinking of divorce or even in the process of divorcing your spouse even now.

So, here's a thought for those who are thinking about it, or even in the process right now. What do you think would happen if you actually spent all that time and effort and money that you would/are using to divorce your spouse, and used it to save your marriage instead?

Now you can use all the excuses you want to tell yourself that it's over, it's no use, and you may even be saying, "*You just don't know what he/she has done to me and our marriage*" and you are right, I don't know, and I don't need to know. But you seem to forget that God knows, and since He knows, He still says: ***"For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."***

Even the Pharisees asked Jesus that if divorce is wrong, then why did Moses say it was OK? And Jesus' answer is the truth of why divorce happens.

† ***Matthew 19:7-8 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."***

Did you see it? ***Because of the hardness of your hearts.***

Notice Jesus didn't say so that you can have a better life without him or her, or that there is someone better for you out there.

Maybe you are angry with your spouse, regardless whether you think you can justify it or not. The truth is, if you are a Christian and you are wanting a divorce, then you have a hard heart, which is not a heart that a Christian should have. Instead your heart and attitude should be: ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23***

If you are considering, or even in the process of a divorce right now, I pray that that you would stop and get on your knees and confess, according to what Jesus said is going on in your heart, which is that you have a hard heart towards your spouse. Ask the Lord to forgive you and take that hard heart of stone and to give you a heart of flesh again for him or her.

† **Ezekiel 11:19** *Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.*

Then ask Him to give you the fruit of the spirit towards your spouse, which *is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

You think it's impossible at this point to save your marriage? Maybe you should stop and think back on what the Lord pulled you out of, and what He saved you from when He became your Lord and Savior. That was an impossibility that only God could do, and He can do the same in your marriage too.

† **Matthew 19:26** *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*