Clips from Psalms

Psalms 115:1-3

Heathen Idols contrasted with Jehovah

1 Not unto us, O Jehovah, not unto us, but unto your name give glory, for your lovingkindness, and for your truth's sake. 2 Wherefore should the nations say, Where is now their God? 3 But our God is in the heavens: he has done whatsoever he pleased.

Matthew 19:9 made Simple

Jesus said, “9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and he that marries her when she is put away commits adultery” (19:9).

Consider the following associated reference verses. Jesus said at Matthew 5:32, “32 I say unto you that every one that puts away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, makes her an adulteress and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away commits adultery.” Mark writes, “11 Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another commits adultery against her: 12 and if she herself shall put away her husband and marry another she commits adultery” (Mark 10:11-12). Luke adds, “18 every one that puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery: and he that marries one that is put away from a husband commits adultery” (Luke 16:18). Furthermore, the Apostle Paul’s words on this subject are helpful. Paul writes, “1 or are you ignorant, brethren (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man for so long time as he lives? 2 For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. 3 so then if, while the husband lives, she be joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if the husband die, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be joined to another man” (Romans 7:1-3). The Apostle Paul also wrote to the Corinthians regarding this subject saying, “10 But unto the married I give charge, yea not I, but the Lord, that the wife depart not from her husband 11 (but should she depart let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband); and that the husband leave not his wife” (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
If someone were to marry the put away person or the one doing the putting away the consequence is adultery. The Lord does not say that this adultery, after the divorce for no lawful cause, is a cause in itself for the other spouse to remarry. Read closely each of the above statements and you will see that the only lawful remarriage after a divorce is the exception of fornication that occurred during the marriage. One may put away a spouse for the cause of fornication and remarry if the fornication occurred while they were married. If the adultery happened after a divorce for no just cause there is no provision for remarriage. The two are commanded to stay separate or be reconciled. When we see that Jesus deals with the immediate marriage of two people we can answer any marriage, divorce, and remarriage scenario thrown our way. Did the fornication happen during the time of marriage or was it after a divorce?

The Pharisees’ question has been completely answered: Can a man divorce his wife for any reason? Jesus said, no, and those who do so commit adultery against their original mate. Can a wife that has been put away for reasons other than adultery get remarried? The answer is no, that woman was joined in marriage by God to her original husband and nothing but adultery breaks that bond. Though the woman is the innocent party in the divorce she is not to get remarried. The man that divorced his wife for causes other than adultery makes her an adulterous woman by putting her away for no lawful cause (see Matthew 5:32). The man that puts away the innocent wife is the one making his wife commit adultery. How can such a one think that he could get married to someone else if he “makes” his original wife commit adultery? The fact that the innocent woman in a divorce is called an adulterous woman, if she remarries, is proof that she is not permitted remarriage though the husband put her away for unlawful reasons.

The simple conclusion is that in order for a man or woman to lawfully divorce and remarry the fornication must have taken place before a divorce takes place. Otherwise the two must remain as they are or be reconciled (see 1 Corinthians 7:11). The only ground for an authorized divorce and remarriage is fornication occurring before divorce takes place. Marriage is for life and once that bond is broke for unlawful causes things change. Neither Jesus nor his apostles give authorization for remarriage once the marriage has been dissolved for unlawful causes.

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John Robertson

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**Psalms 110**

1 The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.
2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!
3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.
4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.
6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.
7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.