

Eunuchs for the Kingdom

In Matthew 19:12, mention eunuchs in the context of whether it is good to marry. Jesus says, *There are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.* Jesus identifies three types of eunuchs here: natural eunuchs (born that with physical or mental deficiencies), forced eunuchs (made eunuchs by others as the eunuchs who served before the king), voluntary eunuchs (those who choose for himself for the sake of the kingdom of heaven). This word of truth cannot be accepted by all, but only by those to whom it is given as a gift. It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. God deciding who will receive His favor, or His mercy. Voluntary eunuchs are those who, in order to better serve the Lord in some capacity, choose to sacrifice marriage. God calls some people to remain single or unmarried life according to God's purpose. Scripture speaks of those who serve the Lord in their unmarried state in 1 Corinthians 7:7-9. Apostle Paul states that it is better if a Christian can stay single. The reason is that a married man's attention is divided between pleasing the Lord and pleasing his wife. A single man is free to be more focused on the Lord's work. Paul says, *I wish that all men were [unmarried] as I am. But each man has his own gift from God.* The ability to stay single and serve God is a gift with grace of God. Singleness is preferable when those who have been given the gift of celibacy exercise this gift for the kingdom. Those who called to live single to serve the Lord have to discern that calling thru prayer and appropriate it voluntarily. God gives special grace to those who are dedicated to serve the Lord unmarried. They should yield themselves to that calling; joyfully accept the will of God. They making themselves bond-servants and made themselves eunuchs (forsaken marriage) for the Kingdom. They obeyed immediately, accepted their calling. They did not wait for confirmation from flesh and blood or family or friends. They are willing to pay the price of hardship, trials, affliction for Christ's sake. God is not commanding being single, but it is a dedication to the Lord. They made a conscious decision to remain celibate for the sake of their calling. They needed to exercise self-control over their sexual passions and desires. Consecrated persons are responsible to God, they should remain faithful were in when God called them. Whom shall I send, who will go for us? They will say Here am I, send me!

When it comes to the unmarried women, it is specific; *There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.* (1CO7:34) While marriage is God's normal design for most people, He has gifted some to remain single so that they can serve Him without the burdens that necessarily go along with marriage. *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* (7:1), the word -touch as a figure of speech that refers to the physical relationship in marriage. Thus, it is good to remain single. Unmarried women may devote themselves to the service of the Lord without distractions. they may freely minister the spiritual gifts imparts to them. If you can remain single and devote to the Lord in purity, do it. It's just a matter of how God has called and gifted a person. (ROM9:16; ISA56:3-5)

In Judges 11:29-40, mention about a young, the unnamed and an unshakable girl known as Jephthah's daughter. Jephthah kept his vow and offered her to the Lord, to the tabernacle as a servant. His daughter displays equal nobility of character. She realized the nature of the vow and without hesitation she put herself at her father's disposal. Before irreversible step was taken she spend two months with her companions to "mourn that I must die a virgin". *And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man.* She believed it was right before God with this sacrifice. Thus she remained un-married, a virgin, consistent with her being "consecrated to the Lord", for the rest of her days, occupy a place among that "of faithful witnesses" (HEB11:32)

Jesus was celibate, He was fully committed to Father's will—keeping His promise-humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, death on a cross. In order to perfect imitated, those who have calling to consecrated life take vows of remain single. *If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth*" (NUM30:2) God, does treat our oaths and vows with utmost seriousness, for they are made in His name, and His name is to be hallowed. (EXO20:7) Jesus said, *No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.* (LUK9:62) Furthermore, oaths are so important to the Lord that He would rather not make any vows at all than make vows that we do not fulfill. (ECC5:4-5) We intend to keep, and then we must keep them once they are made. *Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,* (PSA51:6) We must safe-guard the truth—truth of God's Word and also the truth of our words. In breaking our vows, we deny truth is sacred. Those who treat truth with sacredness that it deserves effort to keep their promise. They do not withdraw even when it proves far more difficult than anticipated to be true to their promises. Jesus taught concerning vows, *You shall not break your vows to God but must fulfill them all.* (MAT5:33) If you swear something, it had better be true. Psalm 15:4 describes a righteous person as one "who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind." be careful about making vows, either to the Lord or to one another. The fact that we are prone to errors in judgment means that we may make vows foolishly or out of immaturity. "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" (LUK10:41-42)

There is no marriage in heaven. since there is no procreation or loneliness. Neither marriage nor singleness are inherently superior; both callings can serve the Lord. (1CO9:5) But married or single, our ultimate goal should be to live in obedience, faithful and devotion to Him. God calls us to keep our vow, so we should do whatever we can set up to fulfill that call. Do not make playful oaths, we must seek help of Lord Himself, calling upon His grace and assistance of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be true to our word. Let us seek Lord's face daily, pray continually for the anointing that He will be with us to encourage, equip us to fulfill our promise. The One who is truth Himself ever lives to make intercession for us. that is Christ. *So, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, if you do these things, you will never stumble.*