

April 26, 2026

“Family: Distinct and Obedient”  
Lesson 4

Deuteronomy 6:3-9  
Matthew 19:3-9

### **Intro**

The two passages today both deal with the Law of Moses and its application. The first passage is from Deuteronomy, where Moses is reminding the people of the Law that God has given them, before they enter into the Promised Land. What he says is basically a repeating of what they have been told earlier. The second passage is from Matthew 19, where some Pharisees try to trip Jesus by asking for His interpretation of a specific Mosaic Law.

### **Read Deuteronomy 6:3-9**

1. vs. 3: This verse begins a section focusing of the people as doers obeying the commandments  
There is a promise to them for doing so  
Things “may go well with you”  
You may “increase greatly”  
The land will flow “with milk and honey”  
All these promises were given to the ancestors of the people Moses now speaks to  
The people are told to *obey* the commandments, not just hear them  
They are to “be careful to obey”
2. vs. 4: This verse focuses on the Oneness of God  
This means two things  
First, it means that there is no other God but Yahweh alone  
Second, it means that the Godhead (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit) is One—the trinity  
For the first meaning, this is what the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob practices  
It was God alone who led and protected the people of Israel
3. vs. 5: The allegiance to God alone from vs. 4 is developed here in vs. 5  
We are to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength  
This love is to come from the totality of all that we are  
Notice that no particular rituals are prescribed as to how to love God  
This love is come from a desire to be wholly devoted to God in all areas  
This is the Law that Jesus cites in Matt. 22:38 as “the greatest commandment”  
Jesus says that this and loving your neighbor as yourself are what all the law hangs on
4. vs. 6: These commandments, says Moses, are to “be on your hearts”  
This means they are to be familiar to the extreme  
They are to be what informs / guides everything a person does  
God’s commandments are to be internalized—the basis of what a person thinks  
What a person thinks is what they will do or say  
These laws about God and how to treat people are to be on our hearts, not just our lips

5. vs. 7: It's important for each person to follow the Law, but even that is not the full extent of obeying  
 The people are to teach their children as well  
 They are to "impress" the law on them—to make they aware of it's value to obey it  
 The times listed aren't the point of when the instruction should occur  
 The implication is that the teaching should happen all the time, wherever one is at
6. vs. 8-9: Looking at vs. 7, the "binding" of the Law is to be on the parents, not on the children  
 They are to lead by example  
 Again, this list is not the point, or the only places where the law can be affixed  
 The implication is that the law should be in a place that is easily seen, and often seen  
 This is a way to keep all reminded of what the Law commands  
 Humans have a way of forgetting things during difficult times

### **Read Matthew 19:3-9**

7. vs. 3: Jesus is preaching in Judea, on the eastern side of the Jordan River  
 Various religious leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, etc) have been opposing Jesus  
 Here they ask a question to test Him, to see if they can find a way to bring Him down  
 The issue concerns divorce, probably coming from Deut. 24:1  
 The Pharisees themselves didn't agree on the reasons a divorce could occur  
 One group thought it was for adultery only, another for any reason at all  
 The question is "Is it legal to divorce for any and every reason?"
8. vs. 4: Jesus takes them back to Moses by asking them, "Haven't you read...?"  
 In Genesis, God made man and woman, male and female  
 Jesus goes back to the beginning—to God's original purpose for marriage
9. vs. 5: Jesus here quotes Gen. 2:24, which establishes a new family unit in marriage  
 The man leaves his original household to establish a new one with his wife  
 The new relationship overrides what was formerly the most important one—his parents  
 As established by God, it is sacred, and not to be treated it lightly
10. vs. 6: God's original intention was that a man and woman are now "one flesh" when married  
 They are one thing, not two separate things  
 To tear them apart would be to destroy God's established order and plan
11. vs. 7: The Pharisees hear what Jesus says, and have a follow-up challenge ready  
 "Why then did Moses give a command for a man to divorce his wife?"  
 They think they have Jesus cornered; from a human view, this is a logical question  
 Ordinances for divorce to exist in the Law (Deut. 24:1-4, 22:13-30)  
 If they don't apply, why are they in the Scriptures?  
 Jesus may be stating the ideal, but the reality is that divorce seems to be justified in Law

12. vs. 8: Jesus acknowledges that “Moses permitted” divorce

It is not what God established, nor what God wants

It was allowed because “your hearts were hard”

People are sinful, and don’t always choose to follow God’s ways

Even though exceptions are granted, the practice should never become the norm

13. vs. 9: Jesus doesn’t overturn Mosaic law here, as He does in Matt. 5:21-28 and following verses

Here he affirms that divorce is permissible in very particular conditions

It is not what God wants, and there is a stern warning attached to remarriage

Application: Christians are called to receive and apply God’s word and will. If we are to be distinct from the world, either as families or as individuals, we must be showing faithful obedience. A whole-person love of God is the most fundamental part of the Christian life, just like it was to those faithful to God under the old covenant. It should be what animates every thought and every action a Christian takes. One example which exhibits this love for God is submitting to His desires as they relate to marriage. But marriage is only one part of human life. Love for God should look like obeying God’s wishes for human life in all areas. And as we live out God’s will, we need to remember that we aren’t doing it for ourselves alone. Hebrews 10:24 calls on us to spur one another on in the faith. Today’s passage in Deuteronomy reminds us to instruct our children, and by extension, all who are young in the faith. Part of living the faith and encouraging growth in others are the reminders we set up, first for ourselves, about loving God, so that reminder lives in our hearts and forms our actions to live in alignment with it.

Prayer: Father God, help us to love You with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our might. Help us love you in our homes and everyone outside our homes. Help us to love you with all we say, with all we think, and with all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.