

Sermon on the Mount Part 10
Jesus Speaks on Divorce
Matthew 5:31-32

I. What did the OT say?

- Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - Most teaching of the Pharisees and scribes hinged on these 4 verses alone.
 - The first 5 books of the bible in the eyes of a Jew was the authoritative law of God given by Moses.
- 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."
 - If we really understand the fallout from divorce we can see why God hates divorce

II. What did the scribes and the Pharisees teach?

- These religious leaders mainly looked to the first five books of the bible "The Law"
 - Teachings like Malachi were not given as much weight because they did not fall under the "law" of Moses.
 - Malachi was considered a prophet.
- The rabbinical teaching hinged on the word some un-cleanness found in Deuteronomy 24:1
 - The rabbinical teaching on this subject came down through two schools of teaching.
 - The school of Hillel was the liberal left in the understanding of the word uncleanness.
 - The school of Shammai was the conservative right in the understanding of the uncleanness
 - Hillel taught the following
 - Uncleanness could be **anything** a man did like about his wife.
 - Schammai taught the following
 - Uncleanness meant adultery and adultery only.

III. The teachings of Jesus and His disciples on the topic of divorce

- Jesus teaching on divorce
 - Once Jesus has correctly stated the law we know that each time he begins to then deal with the root emotion of the law.
 - This can be found in Matthew 19:1-9
 - In this passage of scripture we found Jesus answering questions in reference to the topic of divorce
 - Notice the setup of the Question in verse 3. The religious leaders of Jesus' day were more concerned about trying to trap Jesus rather than truly trying to understand the topic at hand.
 - Their question hinged on the following topic. Is divorce allowed for "every cause"?
 - Jesus' Answer
 - Jesus simply goes back and gives the original intent of God at Creation (verse 4-6)
 - At this point though the Pharisees feel they have now caught Jesus in a trap. (verse 7)
 - There is a huge difference in the question asked by the Pharisees in verse 7 and the answer Jesus gives in verse 8. "Commanded" verses "Allowed"
 - Jesus simply restates that sexual impurity is the only reason for divorce not the following

IV. Many questions about divorce other than adultery

- Read I Corinthians 7:10-11 (believers)
 - First not of importance Paul says this is a command from the Lord
 - In short Paul states that Jesus does not permit divorce just for any reason.
 - Both Paul and Jesus state the same things.
- Read I Corinthians 7:12-17
 - In verse 12 it is important to note that Paul now says He is speaking not the Lord.
 - Now Paul is speaking to a home that is marked by a believer and a non-believer living in the same home.
 - This verse is not a license for a believer to go and marry a non-believer. 2Cr 6:14 KJV - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
 - Living together in a pleasing way is the key.
 - This simply means that the non-believer is willing to live with the believer in a peaceable way.
 - Peaceable does not include the following items
 - Beating, illegal drugs, law breaking acts, sexually immoral acts, acts that put the very life of the believer in jeopardy.
 - When children are involved it certainly does not include in acts that are done in a malicious intent against the children. Matthew 18:6
 - In that type of household the believer is not bound to the non-believer.
 - If the non-believer will not live peaceably with the believer the believer is no longer under bondage. This also means **in my opinion** they are free to re-marry.

V. God's design for Marriage.

- Read Malachi 2:15 and Ephesians 4:21-33.

