



March 31, 2019
Pastor Bruce Adrian

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Nine • Matthew 5:31-32

Jesus on Divorce

The Road to Exceeding Righteousness

Repent of marriage without COMMITMENT and make life-long faithfulness your goal in marriage.

Jesus' Teaching on Divorce

1. Divorce for ANY CAUSE Is Prohibited by God!

Ancient But Contemporary Question

How can I GET OUT of this marriage?

When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce... Deuteronomy 24:1 ESV

And Pharisees came up to Him and tested Him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" Matthew 19:3 ESV

Pharisees Vs Jesus on Divorce

- What Jewish tradition said: a man could legally DIVORCE his wife for any cause if he gave her a certificate of divorce.

"Furthermore, it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'" Matthew 5:31

- What Jesus said: any cause divorce inevitably leads to ADULTERY when remarriage occurs.

But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery." Matthew 5:32

2. Divorce for JUST CAUSE Is Permitted by God!

Jesus' Reply to the Pharisees' Question on Divorce (Matthew 19:3-9)

- The Pharisees were preoccupied with the grounds for DIVORCE; Jesus with the sanctity of MARRIAGE.

What Does Jesus Emphasize about Marriage?

God's original design for marriage is that it is exclusive between one man and one woman and it is permanent for a lifetime.

Genesis 1:27 & 2:24

- The Pharisees called Moses' provision for divorce a COMMAND; Jesus called it a CONCESSION to the hardness of people's hearts.

Mosaic Law on Divorce (Deut. 24:1-4)

- It protected the woman being divorced by her husband.
- It prevented the husband from remarrying his divorced wife.

- The Pharisees regarded divorce LIGHTLY; Jesus took it so SERIOUSLY that He limited it to the just cause of sexual immorality.

When Is Divorce Biblically Permissible?

- According to Jesus, when there is adultery (or sexual immorality) by either spouse (*Mt. 5:32, 19:9*).
- According to Paul, when there is abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (*1Cor. 7:12-16*).
- A biblical case can be made when there is abuse by either spouse (form of marital abandonment while still physically present).

Keeping Your Wedding Vows When You Say "I Do"

- ❖ Marriage is first and foremost about the glory of GOD, not how happy a spouse can make you.
- ❖ Marriage is a COVENANT to be honored, not a contract to be broken when one spouse doesn't meet the expectations of the other.
- ❖ Marriage faithfulness is POSSIBLE through the grace of God, the presence of Jesus, and the power of the Spirit.