

From Frivolous Fracturing to Fervent Faithfulness

Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9

- I. A Disciple’s Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
- II. A Disciple’s Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
- III. **A Disciple’s Righteousness** (5:17-48)
 - A. The Kingdom Standard: Must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20)
 - B. Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:21-48)
 - 1. Murder: Replace anger/abusive speech with reconciliation and nurture of persons and relationships
 - 2. Adultery: Replace lust with purity of heart expressed in love that cares for (not uses) the other.

Illustration #3: The Seventh Commandment – “You shall not commit adultery” (Part 2)

I. Background and Expanded Commentary

A. Matthew 5:31-32 and Matthew 19:3-9

Matthew 5:31-32	Matthew 19:7-9
<p>“And it was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’</p> <p>“And I tell you that everyone who divorces his wife except for sexual infidelity, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”</p>	<p>They said to him, “Why, then, did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?”</p> <p>He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I tell you that Whoever divorces his wife, Except for sexual infidelity, and marries another woman commits adultery.</p>

B. The Story behind the Story: First Century debate over the application of Deuteronomy 24:1

1. Hillel: In the phrase “for the cause of sexual immorality” [lit. “thing of nakedness (or) indecency”], the term “cause” must refer to “_____ cause” – including burning a meal or fading in attractiveness.
2. Shammai: “a man should not divorce his wife except he has found ‘_____’ in her.”
3. The view of _____ prevailed in 1st century Judaism and beyond.

II. Jesus’ teaching re: righteousness and divorce

A. Tradition: “You have heard that it was said . . .”

1. A man may divorce his wife for “any cause” provided his action is legally _____ (5:31; 19:3)
 - a. The certificate of divorce guaranteed that the woman was _____ for (re-)marriage.
 - b. The prohibition of remarriage by the first husband protected the woman from financial _____ (the seizing of her dowry).
2. Mosaic law _____ the divorce of a woman guilty of “indecency” (5:31; 19:7)

B. Correction: "But I say to you . . ."

1. You are focusing on the wrong _____. Marriage was intended by God to be a _____ that is
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
2. Mosaic law _____ divorce due to _____.
 - a. This may relate to the person who is too eager to _____ divorce out of perceived self-interest.
 - b. It may also describe the person who violates the marriage vows with _____
 - 1) A hardened heart resists the _____ of God for the individual and for the marriage;
 - 2) A person with a hard heart resists _____ himself to his spouse;
 - 3) A hardened heart cannot receive or extend _____.
3. An "any cause divorce" is _____; because that marriage is not dissolved, any subsequent marriage entails _____.

C. Application: "What God has joined together, let not man separate" (19:6).

1. He did NOT say that divorce _____ happen. It is, in fact, sometimes _____
 - a. It became necessary for _____ (Jeremiah 3:1-8; 4:3-4)
 - b. It becomes the prerogative of the _____ spouse in instances where the marriage vows are violated with stubborn un-repentance ("hard-heartedness").
2. He did NOT say that divorce is _____.
3. He DID say that divorce _____ not happen.
 - a. Kingdom citizens should focus on "becoming one flesh" rather than looking for an "_____."
 - b. Even where marriage vows are compromised, kingdom couples should first seek _____ through repentance, forgiveness, and the re-forging of trust (Matt. 5:23-24)

III. Kingdom principles

- A. What Jesus is teaching in Matthew 5 is that there are at least three ways to fall short of the intent of the seventh commandment:
 1. _____ adultery: breaks the marital covenant, denigrates (treats with contempt) one's spouse, destroys the picture of Christ's marriage to the church, and provokes severe consequences.
 2. _____ adultery (lust): treats another person as an _____ for one's own gratification.
 3. Marital adultery ("any cause divorce"): treats one's spouse as _____ and causes physical adultery
- B. Christian spouses need to be on guard against hardness of heart creeping into their marriage. Such hardening can occur when one partner in a marriage has been continually _____ by the other.
- C. Kingdom righteousness is not about avoided rule-breaking. Just as the prohibition against lust is intended to promote a _____ of heart, so the prohibition against divorce is intended to promote _____ to one's marital covenant.
 1. Kingdom spouses should cultivate faithfulness to their marriage _____ (See Exodus 21:10-11):
 - _____ support (food and clothing)
 - Physical _____ (conjugal love)
 2. Kingdom spouses should seek to fulfill the functions of marriage: relational _____ and vocational partnership, _____ one another with the goal of advancing God's rule and righteousness