



# Sermon on the Mount

## Matthew 5:31-32 (Part 1)

### *The Tragedy of Divorce*

#### 1. The Tragedy of Divorce

- No one \_\_\_\_\_ through divorce – in many cases, one life of \_\_\_\_\_ is traded for another.
- The discussion of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ naturally led to a question about divorce – the religious leaders who sat in “\_\_\_\_\_ Seat” (Matt. 23:1-3) had twisted the teaching of the Law in order to justify their evil thoughts and actions.
- There are a number of \_\_\_\_\_ why a couple might divorce – it’s our intent to show what \_\_\_\_\_ thinks of it.

#### 2. Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- This passage is \_\_\_\_\_ an exposé of the issue of divorce – it’s simply a \_\_\_\_\_ of sinful human behavior.
- The regulation required a “\_\_\_\_\_ of divorce” in order to certify the \_\_\_\_\_ of a woman’s separation from her husband and to \_\_\_\_\_ a husband’s hasty actions.
- God gave to \_\_\_\_\_ a certificate of divorce because of her uncleanness (Jer. 3:1-8).
- The regulation clearly teaches that if a woman is given a certificate of divorce by her first husband because of “uncleanness) and is subsequently divorced by a second husband (or the second husband dies), then she \_\_\_\_\_ re-marry (or be reclaimed by) the first husband.
  - Verses 1-3 stipulate the \_\_\_\_\_ that must be met for the regulation (vs. 4) to be enforced.
  - Unfortunately the \_\_\_\_\_ emphasizes the writing of the \_\_\_\_\_ by placing the word “then” in vs. 1.

- Notice the two distinct reasons for divorcing the woman: DIVORCE #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ and DIVORCE #2 - \_\_\_\_\_.
- IMPORTANT: In this case, the \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when the 2nd husband divorces his wife for \_\_\_\_\_ and not “uncleanness” (she was not categorized as “defiled” by the **marriage** to the 2nd husband, only after being **divorced** from him for the reason stipulated).
- The illegitimacy of the 2nd divorce (for \_\_\_\_\_) brought defilement to the woman ... WHY?
- The regulation assumed \_\_\_\_\_ - without a permitted or legitimate divorce, the woman was considered “defiled” as an adulteress after having been forced to vacate a legitimately constituted marriage which was still genuine.
- The word “\_\_\_\_\_” (NASB & ESV – “indecency”, CEV – “something disgraceful”, NLT – “something wrong”, NCV – “something bad”) has always been up for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It was a \_\_\_\_\_ indecency.
  - It fell short of a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It caused irreparable \_\_\_\_\_ to the marriage relationship.
  - It was a \_\_\_\_\_ reason for divorce.
- “... while divorce was **suffered** (BOLD is mine) in the Mosaic economy we have no warrant to suppose that under any circumstances was it \_\_\_\_\_ or approved as the intrinsic \_\_\_\_\_ or prerogative of the husband.” (Murray, Divorce, pg. 15)

### 3. Matthew 5:31-32

- TWO OBSERVATIONS:
  - This passage only comments on the actions of the \_\_\_\_\_, not the wife.
  - This passage makes no comment and Jesus passes no judgment on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the violated husband.

- The religious leaders had placed undue emphasis on the writing of a certificate of divorce as the only stipulation to make a divorce “approved”; Jesus condemns this thinking by emphasizing the fact that a husband MAY NOT divorce his wife for any other reason than \_\_\_\_\_.
- “The man is not said in this case to commit \_\_\_\_\_; his sin is rather that he becomes \_\_\_\_\_ in the wrong of adultery on the part of his dismissed wife.” (Murray, Divorce, pp. 21-22)
- The woman’s not an adulteress simply because of the \_\_\_\_\_, she is made to “suffer adultery” (aorist passive)
  - IMPLICATION: This woman can only become an adulteress when she violates a covenant of marriage that is still in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - IMPLICATION: \_\_\_\_\_ is the only God-given, legitimately permitted grounds for dissolving a marriage.
- It follows that if the \_\_\_\_\_ commits adultery by violating a covenant of marriage still in vogue, then the \_\_\_\_\_ who divorces his wife also commits \_\_\_\_\_ if he remarries after divorcing his wife for illegitimate (*non-porneia*) reasons.
- The Old Testament did not provide for divorce in the case of \_\_\_\_\_ (only death) - Jesus did, however ... the ethics of the Kingdom of God was not to be built on the temporary \_\_\_\_\_ of the Mosaic Law.

**Part 2 of our study will examine two additional passages:**

**Matthew 19 & 1 Corinthians 7**