

Kingdom Community & Marriage

Gospel of Matthew, Part 26

Matthew 5:27-32

Sermon Outline

4 Keys to Understanding Matthew 5:20-48

1. All the Bible and this passage must be understood in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mt. 5:17)
2. Jesus provides the righteousness that He requires through FAITH. (Mt. 5:20)
3. The Law is not a way TO life, but a way OF life IN Christ.
4. The Law drives us to the Gospel; the Gospel drives us to one another.

I. The Lure of Lust (5:27-30)

- A. What's the problem?
- B. Who has the problem?
- C. Where's the root of the problem?
- D. What's at risk in not dealing with the problem?
- E. How to deal with the problem?
 1. Spiritually, run to Jesus and the Gospel.
 2. Physically, take extreme measures.

II. The Devastation of Divorce (5:31-32)

- A. The Pharisees were concerned with the procedure for divorce. Jesus is concerned for the sanctity of marriage.
- B. The Pharisees saw divorce as a command and right. Jesus teaches divorce as a divine concession and tragedy.
- C. What is the devastation of divorce?
 1. Divorce destroys the spiritual "one flesh" union.
 2. Divorce destroys the earthly reflection of Christ & the church.
 3. Divorce tears apart the family, the incubator for healthy kids.
 4. Divorce short circuits one of God's means of changing our lives.

What the Bible Teaches About Divorce & Remarriage

(Matt. 5:31-32, 19:1-9, I Cor. 7)

1. Marriage is to be held in high honor by all. (Heb. 13:4) Divorce is never desirable. God hates it. (Mal. 2:16) Divorce is outside of God's original design and intention. (Gen. 2:24, Mt. 19:5-6)
2. Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration are the desired goal and building blocks of every relationship and especially marriage.
3. The Bible mentions two circumstances where divorce is permissible: (1) spousal infidelity (Mt. 5:31-32, 19:9, "one flesh" violation) or (2) spousal desertion (I Cor. 7:15, "leave and cleave" violation).
4. When reconciliation is not possible, remarriage by innocent parties is permissible (I Cor. 7:15, 27-28) (In Matthew 5:32, Jesus is using hyperbole and overstatement to highlight the importance of marriage, not prohibiting remarriage. The one who divorces without proper cause is guilty of divorce.)
5. Illegitimate divorce or illegitimate remarriage are not unforgivable, unpardonable sins. Forgiveness and grace can be experienced through repentance.

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. In Matthew 5:27-32, how does Jesus' explanation of the law, drive us to Jesus and the gospel? How does the gospel drive us to value one another and marriage?
2. What is happening to the institution of marriage in our day and culture? How is it being attacked? Undermined? Redefined?
3. What is the first and most important thing we can do to protect the institution of marriage?
4. What's the problem with lust? According to Jesus, who has the problem? What's the root of the problem? What's at risk if we don't deal with the problem? How does Jesus tell us to deal with the problem?
5. What is the devastation of divorce? How have you personally experienced or seen this devastation in your own life and in other's lives? Where were the Pharisees at on the divorce issue? What's Jesus' concern in addressing divorce?
6. How does Jesus' teaching contrast with cultural views of divorce today?
7. Read "What the Bible teaches about divorce and remarriage" above. Is this is where you are at? Where do you disagree with what the Bible teaches? Are you willing to believe and submit to something in the Bible that you don't like?