

Exposition of Matthew

Divorce and Adultery (5:31-32)

Introduction

1. We need to have a clear understanding on what the Bible says about these issues so that we are not justifying the guilty or condemning the innocent.
“Many loving and compassionate people have been wounded by spouses they trusted, only to be wounded again by fellow Christians who did not know what to do with them. Many who have sinned against their spouses by divorcing them without scriptural grounds have never been called to repentance by the body of Christ” (Craig Keener, *And Marries Another*, vii).
2. The series is going to be for our edification. We want to strengthen our marriages and give biblical counsel and direction in areas of divorce and remarriage.

Context: Anger and Lust

Observations

I. The Certificate of Divorce (31)

- A. The Rabbinic Teaching
 1. The teaching was founded on Deut. 24:1-4
 2. An entire Tractate of the Mishna, Gittin, is devoted to provisions for divorce.
 3. Divorce was primarily a male prerogative.
- B. The Rabbinic Schools on Divorce
 1. The school of Hillel
 2. The school of Shammai
 3. The school of Akriba
- B. Deut. 24:1-4
- C. First century Judaism

II. The Antithesis: But I say to you (32)

- A. Whoever divorces his wife makes her commit adultery
- B. Whoever marries one who has been divorced commits adultery
- C. The exception clause

Conclusion