

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

**Matthew 5:31-32, ESV** – <sup>31</sup> “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’  
<sup>32</sup> But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 Why did Jesus focus on marriage when the Pharisees confronted Him about divorce?
- 2 How does Jesus raise the bar when looking at standards for divorce?
- 3 How can Jesus’ principles be taught and followed today?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** **Matthew 19:3-9, ESV** – <sup>3</sup> And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” <sup>4</sup> He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” <sup>7</sup> They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

**4** According to the passage above, what is God’s ideal for marriage?

**5** How does the Pharisee’s question in verse 7 show their misunderstanding and misuse of the law?

**6** How is human hard-heartedness the root of what keeps people from God’s ideal and best for them?

**B** **John 8:3-11, ESV** – <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup> they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

**7** According to the passage above, adultery came with the death penalty. How would Jesus’ statement in Matthew 5:32 been received by those listening?

**8** What is the significance of Jesus’ question to the woman in verse 10?

- 9 What was Jesus' attitude toward her in verse 11? Was He condoning the woman's sin by not condemning her? How can this principle apply today?

## TAKING IT HOME

Jesus reminds us that God's ideal for marriage is for one man to be married to one woman. At the same time, Jesus recognizes that sin exist in the world and keeps us from God's ideal. Therefore, He offers love and forgiveness for those who repent and seek after Him. Are there sins in your life that you need to repent of and ask forgiveness? Ask God to search your heart and show you any areas of your life that need to be surrendered to Him.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 2:24  
Deuteronomy 24:1-4  
Malachi 2:13-16  
Mark 10:2-12  
John 8:10-11  
1 Corinthians 7:1-16