

JESUS ON DIVORCE

August 17, 2014 Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 11

³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit [victim of] adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:31–32 ESV

Matthew 19:3–9

MAIN IDEA: Let the radical perspective, teaching, and freedom of Jesus infect how we see and interact with divorce and those who’ve been divorced.

Why 3 sentences only?

“Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has come near.”

Matthew 4:17

- **A change in direction** (in God’s direction) of life.
- **View Marriage and Divorce differently** (Jer. 31:33-34)
- God’s kingdom radically impacts our **Relationships**.

What was Jesus addressing in the original setting?

“If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled.” **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

“something indecent”?

Shammai vs. Hillel

What Convictions did Jesus express?

- He comes to the aid of **WOMEN**.
- **God’s Creational will supersedes his Concessional will.**

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” **Mt. 19:4-6**

- **Divorce is an adultery-level issue to God.**
- **There is only one legit ground for divorce with God: Immorality. (*porneia*)**

What does all this mean for us now?

- **Must own GOD’S ORIGINAL DESIGN, and hold it in high honor.** (Gen. 1; Heb. 13:4)
- **CHANGE DIRECTIONS in our thoughts, attitudes and behaviors toward marriage and divorce to line up with God.** (Mal. 2:16)
- **We must have COMPASSION for repentant sinners.** (John 4)
- **We must go-to-school on the other DIVORCE PREVENTION teaching right here in Jesus’ sermon.** (anger, reconciliation, lust, promises, retaliation, generosity, not fighting fire with fire)