

## You've Heard it Said (Understanding the Kingdom Way) - Part V

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Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Kingdom of God; Sin; Righteousness / Matthew 5:21–48

Jesus informs His hearers of six demanding truths that characterize the Kingdom ethic which is the heart of OT law.

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### Pre-Sermon Comments

This is the day, this is the day.

That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice,

And be glad in it, and be glad in it.

[Psalm 118:24](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> This is the day which Yahweh has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

[Romans 8:28](#) (LSB) <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

- **Financial problems**

Do you know you serve a God who owns everything?

[Psalm 24:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> The earth is Yahweh's, as well as its fullness, The world, and those who dwell in it.

[Acts 4:24](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, “O Master, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

- **Health problems**

Do you realize that God created your body and knows it intimately?

[Psalm 139:14](#) (LSB) <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

[Luke 12:7](#) (LSB) <sup>7</sup> “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

- **Work Difficulties**

Do you understand that God created work?

- **Family Problems**

Do you realize God is the Creator of your family?

[Ephesians 3:14-15](#) (LSB) <sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

[James 1:16-17](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

The marriage relation lies at the very root of the social system of nations. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

## Sermon Text

[Matthew 5:31-32](#) (LSB) <sup>31</sup> “Now it was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’; <sup>32</sup> but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

## Proposition and Outline

### Section Outline

In [Matthew 5:21-48](#), Jesus informs His hearers of six demanding truths that characterize the Kingdom way, which is the heart of OT law. Jesus teaches:

- **Thou Shalt Not Get Angry! ([Matt 5:21-26](#))**
- **Thou Shalt Not Lust! ([Matt 5:27-30](#))**
- **Thou Shalt Not Get a Divorce (in most circumstances)! ([Matt 5:31-32](#))**

- **Thou Shalt Let Your Yes be Yes!** ([Matt 5:33-37](#))
- **Thou Shalt Not Resist an Evil Person** ([Matt 5:38-42](#))
- **Thou Shalt Love Your Enemies** ([Matt 5:43-48](#))

## Today's Sermon

In [Matthew 5:27-30](#), Jesus teaches the third of six demanding truths that characterize the Kingdom way, which is the heart of OT law. Jesus teaches -

### **Thou Shalt Not Get a Divorce (in most circumstances)! Matt 5:31-32**

1. Jesus gives the letter of the command ([Matt 5:31](#))
2. Jesus gives the spirit of the command ([Matt 5:32](#))
3. Jesus illustrates the seriousness of the command ([Matt 5:32](#))
  - a. Wrongful Divorce:
    - i. Makes Her Commit Adultery! ([Matt 5:32](#))
    - ii. Makes Him Commit Adultery! ([Matt 5:32](#))

## Introduction

[Ephesians 5:25](#) (LSB) <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Marriage is not a concession to our sinfulness; marriage is a provision for our holiness. ~ **J. Alec Motyer**

## Review

You may recall Jesus's main proposition statement for His Sermon on the Mount can be found in [Matt 5:20](#) where Jesus says -

[Matthew 5:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

[Romans 3:19-21](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are in the Law, so that every mouth may be shut and all the world may become accountable to God; <sup>20</sup> because by the works of the Law NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

[Romans 5:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> Now the Law came in so that the transgression would increase, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

[Galatians 1:6-7](#) (LSB) <sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is *really* not another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

[Galatians 3:24-26](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor unto Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. <sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

## **Thou Shalt Not Get a Divorce (in most circumstances)! (Matt 5:31-32)**

Jesus gives the letter of the command ([Matt 5:31](#))

[Matthew 5:31](#) (LSB) <sup>31</sup> “Now it was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’;

[Deut 24:1-4](#)

[Deuteronomy 24:1-4](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> “If a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house, <sup>2</sup> and she goes out of his house and goes and becomes another man’s *wife*, <sup>3</sup> and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, <sup>4</sup> *then* her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be

his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before Yahweh, and you shall not bring sin on the land which Yahweh your God gives you as an inheritance.

[Matthew 19:8a](#) (LSB) <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives;

**[Matthew 19:8b](#) (LSB) but from the beginning it has not been this way.**

### [Gen 1-3](#)

[Genesis 2:24](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

### *The Ten Commandments*

[Exodus 20:14](#) (LSB) <sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

[Exodus 20:17](#) (LSB) <sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male slave or his female slave or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

### *Divorce in Jesus’s Day*

[Deuteronomy 24:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> “If a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house,

### *The Mishnah’s Liberal Allowance for Divorce*

Jesus gives the spirit of the command ([Matt 5:32](#))

[Matthew 5:32](#) (LSB) <sup>32</sup> but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

[Matthew 19:9](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

[Matthew 19:10](#) (LSB) The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”

## What is sexual immorality?

[1 Corinthians 10:8](#) (LSB) <sup>8</sup> Nor let us act in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

[Revelation 2:12](#) (LSB) <sup>12</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: **This** is what the One who has the sharp two-edged sword says:

[Revelation 2:14](#) (LSB) <sup>14</sup> ‘But I have a few things against you, that you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

[Matthew 5:28](#) (LSB) <sup>28</sup> but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

[Leviticus 18:23](#) (LSB) <sup>23</sup> ‘Also you shall not lie with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.

[Leviticus 20:10–14](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. <sup>11</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who lies with his father’s wife, he has uncovered his father’s nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. <sup>12</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed perversion. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. <sup>13</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. <sup>14</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is lewdness; both he and they shall be burned with fire so that there will be no lewdness in your midst.

## What about pornography?

[Matthew 5:28](#) (LSB) but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

[Matthew 15:19](#) (LSB) “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Does Jesus advocate for divorce (or demand it)?

[Malachi 2:16](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> “For I hate divorce,” says Yahweh, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says Yahweh of hosts. “Be careful then to keep your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

Jesus sets the record straight that God still hates divorce and that His ideal is still monogamous, life-long marriage. But as a concession to sin and as a gracious provision for those who are innocent of defiling the marriage, He allows divorce on the single ground of unchastity. ~ John MacArthur

Jesus illustrates the seriousness of the command ([Matt 5:32](#))

Wrongful Divorce:

*Makes Her Commit Adultery! ([Matt 5:32](#))*

[Matthew 5:32](#) (LSB)<sup>32</sup> but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

[Mark 10:12](#) (LSB) and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”

[Leviticus 20:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> ‘If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

*Makes Him Commit Adultery! ([Matt 5:32](#))*

[Matthew 5:32](#) (LSB) <sup>32</sup> but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

*What about remarriage?*

Divorced Christians who have remarried should not commit the sin of a second divorce to try to resume relations with a previous spouse but should begin

afresh to observe God's standards by remaining faithful to their current partners. ~ Craig Blomberg

## Conclusion

Marriage, and the process of coming to it, is not heaven! It is the bonding together of two needy sinners in order to make a partnership which is substantially greater than either of them alone. ~ **Sinclair Buchanan Ferguson**

[Matthew 19:10](#) (LSB) The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”

## The Gospel!

[Ephesians 5:25](#) (LSB) <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

[Acts 20:28](#) (LSB) <sup>28</sup> “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

[1 Corinthians 6:19–20](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

## A Gospel Tract

### **God**

#### **Created and owns everything**

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

#### **Is Perfectly Holy**



[1 John 1:5](#)—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

[Matt 5:48](#)—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Requires perfect obedience to His Law**

[James 2:10](#)—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

### **Man**

#### **Has broken God's law**

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

#### **Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin**

[Rom. 6:23](#)—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

#### **Cannot save himself by his good works**

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

### **Christ**

#### **Came to earth both as God and sinless man**

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

#### **Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty**

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

#### **Rose from the grave and is alive today**

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

## **Sinners**

### **Must repent of all that dishonors God**

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

### **Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior**

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

### **Will you repent and believe in Christ?**

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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## Application questions

### Next time

In [Matthew 5:21-48](#), Jesus informs His hearers of six demanding truths that characterize the Kingdom way which is the heart of OT law. Jesus teaches:

Thou Shalt Let Your Yes be Yes! ([Matt 5:33-37](#))

Thou Shalt Not Resist an Evil Person ([Matt 5:38-42](#))

Thou Shalt Love Your Enemies ([Matt 5:43-48](#))

## Additional Quotes

There must be forgiving love and restoring grace in a marriage. That alone makes marriage a proper symbol of God's forgiving love and restoring grace. That is the magnificence of marriage. ~ John MacArthur

It is clear that divorce is like a person cutting off an arm or leg because he has a splinter in it. Instead of dealing with whatever trouble arises between husband and wife, divorce tries to solve the problem by destroying the union. ~ John MacArthur

Without exception, divorce is a product of sin, and God hates it. He never commands it, endorses it, or blesses it. ~ John MacArthur

A man or woman who has no right to divorce has no right to remarry. To do so initiates a whole chain of adultery, because remarriage after illegitimate divorce results in illegitimate and adulterous relationships for all parties involved. ~ John MacArthur

God never "commanded" divorce but only "permitted" it as a concession to sinful, self-willed mankind. ~ John MacArthur

The one-flesh marital union is a signpost pointing to our relationship with Christ as our bridegroom. Once we reach the destination, however, the signpost becomes unnecessary. That one marriage—our marriage to Christ—will be so completely satisfying that even the most wonderful earthly marriage couldn't be as fulfilling. Earthly marriage is a shadow, a copy, an echo, of the true and ultimate marriage. Once that ultimate marriage begins, at the Lamb's wedding feast, all the human marriages that pointed to it will have served their

noble purpose and will be assimilated into the one great marriage they foreshadowed. The purpose of marriage is not to replace Heaven, but to prepare us for it. ~ **Randy Alcorn**

It is only the Christian who truly understands and appreciates marriage. I think I can say honestly that in my pastoral experience, there has been nothing more wonderful than to see the difference Christianity makes in the husband/wife relationship. Where there was a tendency to part and to drift from one another, and an antagonism and almost a bitterness and a hatred, the two people on becoming Christians have discovered one another for the first time. They have also discovered for the first time what marriage really is, though they may have been married for years. They now see what a beautiful and what a glorious thing it is. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Within marriage, sex is beautiful, fulfilling, creative. Outside of marriage, it is ugly, destructive, and damning. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

There is no greater recommendation to ... the power of the Christian faith than a Christian husband and wife, a Christian marriage and a Christian home.~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

The mystery is not any particular marriage or marriage itself; it is the union of Christ and the church which is reflected in a truly Christian marriage. Such a mystery is indeed 'profound' ~ **Peter T. O'Brien**

Only six marriages in a hundred are truly fulfilling. ~ **Howard Hendricks**