

Divorce and the Gospel

Summary

Jesus was challenging the religious leaders that divorcing one's wife was not insignificant.

Read the Passage: Matthew 5:31-32

Make observations while reading the text.

Main Idea in the text:

God's original design for marriage is that it would be between one man and one woman for life.

Attitudes about Divorce in Israel

In Israel, a man could divorce his wife simply by giving her a written statement indicating that he divorced her (Deut. 24:1-4). It was a domestic matter, not something that went through the courts, and divorce was quite common. (Constable Notes: Planobiblechapel.org)

Women did not have the right to divorce their husbands in ancient Israel.

In **Matthew 19:8**, there is a concession not a commandment to allow for divorce.

I Corinthians 7:10-16 is a good passage to study to learn more about marriage and divorce.

The topic of divorce is complicated because we are complicated and sinful people.

Key Ideas from Deuteronomy 24:1-4

Moses permits divorce; he never commands it.

Moses does make provisions for a spouse to be freed from a marriage and be remarried.

The divorce was final—no do overs.

The certificate of divorce was an expression of love to the women in Israel.

“God originally planned the marriage bond to be between one man and one woman for life. If a partner is unfaithful and seeks forgiveness and restoration, the other partner, ideally, will forgive.”

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Application

1. There is hope in Christ to those who have been divorced.
2. Divorce is not part of God's original design.
3. Sometimes divorce is the only option. Seek Godly counsel to affirm that decision.

Discussion Questions

1. This week's message can be complicated to understand.
Were any of your thoughts about divorce challenged?
2. Why should a Christian carefully consider their marriage vows?
3. What are the grounds for Biblical divorce and remarriage?