

Sunday March 5, 2017 Sermon Notes on Matthew 5:31,32

Overheads in bold print

Introduction (Fish Story), deep conviction, many pass over passage, opening prayer.

**"It was said, "Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."
Matt. 5:31-32 NASB**

Review-Sermon on the Mount

Constitution-who we are as Christians

Righteousness exceeding that of the Pharisees and Scribes-not enter kingdom of heaven

It was said-Not Law of Moses but Pharisees false interpretation of law

But I say-Authority of Christ, underlying message of Deity of Christ.

Third challenge-1. Kill/ Anger; 2. Adultery/Lust; 3. Marriage-Divorce-Adultery

God's Word-Let take a tour of God's Word

"For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

(Thus, says the Lord) From the Beginning God defined marriage-one man-one woman, His design, His purpose, His first command. Covenant Relationship. Today--redefine God's definition. (51 Gender ident. Facebook) We must compassionately sound a warning and proclaim God's Word. This is not our design, this is God's, and we believe His design and ways are true. (Get this over) Must be said same sex marriage may be accepted by man, be made lawful by man(this Nation),even some churches but it is not recognized by God. This is not hate speech, it is caring enough to provide the truth and warning. There will be no joy in watching men and women judged and condemned by God. We must proclaim this truth, along with repentance and forgiveness of God. If one preaches in favor, can't imagine trying to stand before God. Witnessing to homosexual at jail.

"When 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 her hand sends her out from his house..." Deuteronomy 24:1

It was Moses' intention to provide a gracious accommodation and provide some order and legality to chaotic practices. It was meant to put in necessary controls. It also gave the woman legitimacy in remarrying. Sin reigns in the life of man. Because of sin, marriages fail. Moses

intention was never to go away from God's design. Because of hardness of heart it was tolerated, but never approved. The Pharisees loose interpretation of Moses' words opened the door to divorce on demand "you burned the toast, you are gone." They could still say I am righteous(Check)

"Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But no one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one does while he was seeking a godly offspring. Take heed to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. "For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and he who covers his garment with wrong, says the Lord of hosts." "So, take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously." Malachi 2:16-18

Here God speaks against those who are in contempt of the marriage covenant. They were also in the practice of putting away their wives to take on foreign wives. There is disagreement on some of the translation here -- bottom line message from God: One man, one woman, and no husband are to act treacherously to his wife. (Parallel-leaving wife for world)

"Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all? And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away. He said to them, because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." Matthew 19:3-9

Testing Jesus? Is that really wise? (Do we test Jesus?) Authority:" But I say to you", first time to disciples Matthew 5, now refuting the very ones who claimed to be righteous

"In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. And he said. 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.'" Mark 10:10-12

Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery." Luke 16:18

Strong words from the Savior. Luke passage is right after he said of the Pharisees "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your heart." Why is it adultery? God considers marriage a covenant, it is not to be broken.

“But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.” I Cor. 7:10-11

Center point of Paul’s instruction-Divorce should not happen.

What is the Spirit of the Law? Marriage is permanent. Core relationship for mankind, everything is built on this relationship, Covenant Relationship, Apostle Paul’s instruction on marriage in Ephesians even equates the marriage relationship is like Christ and the church. Something that cannot and will not be broken.

“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.” Eph. 5:32

In his commentary, Spurgeon thought Christ was heroic in his legislation forbidding divorce except for the one crime of infidelity, he even noted the beginning demise of marriage in America

“Marriage is for life and cannot be loosed except by the one great crime which severs its bond, whichever of the two is guilty of it. Our Lord would never have tolerated the wicked laws of certain of the American States which allow married men and women to separate on merest pretext.” Charles Spurgeon

We live in a time where people not only want to redefine what marriage is, they want to do away with marriage, God’s perfect building block for mankind.

As we near the end of our tour of the scriptures --the Word tells of what was to come:

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods...” I Tim. 4:1-3

Are we in there yet? In the book The Death of the Family, a British physician has suggested

**“The best thing we could do in human society is to do away with the family altogether.”
/ “The family is the primary conditioning device for a Western Imperialistic World View, and we have to get rid of that.”**

In another book called, Sexual Politics, the author writes:

The family unit must go, because it is the family that has oppressed and enslaved women.

What? Have we really come that far to not recognize God’s designs and even abandon them? Can we no longer recognize the schemes and absolute deception and lies of the enemy of our souls. (Did God really say that?)

We complete our tour of the scriptures with clear instruction about marriage from God (who designed it)

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4

Let's return to the Sermon on the mount-what is the Spirit of Christ's instruction. Kill/anger. Lust/ Adultery. Marriage/no divorce. Continuing with His principle, Are we innocent? X 3

“No one is innocent of any of these OT fulfillments-we have all, in essence, committed adultery by divorcing ourselves from the strong emphasis God places on marriage.

Bottom line, Jesus wants us to cherish the institution of marriage as much as He does-protecting and defending it.” Pastor Craig Crawshaw

God's standard, but like the others we find ourselves short of the mark. WE should fight hard for marriage, it is God's institution. This is what we should be teaching, reinforcing, encouraging, demonstrating in the church. Great witness a long marriage is to the world. (call on couples) Two quick testimonies

Testimony-Inmate sentenced to 20 years, Wife asks Pastor can I leave him, Pastor based on charges-no, wife honors God by heeding Pastors counsel, Pastor Honors God by honoring the vows, God honors their choice with result.

Another woman who husband commits crimes where divorce would be allowed, she honors what God honors, forgives him, and stands by him, even with life sentence and being condemned by others for sticking with him. Even though divorce in some cases is legitimate it is not commanded. God also teaches forgiveness and reconciliation.

Sadly, the statistics in the church aren't much different than those outside of the church. Sin leads to divorce. But we still have those who justify -Annulment-modern day Pharisees

So, what do we say to those who are just divorced? What do we say to those who have multiple marriages? (Testimony of inmate-3x married, 8 kids, 10 arrests, going to prison). What do we say? Do we have an Answer? Christ Does...

Same answer-Woman at the well-5 husbands-living water, never thirst. Adulterous woman-justly condemned, Christ intervenes-neither do I condemn you. Has not Christ intervened for us. Thomas- I will not believe...Come here see my hands, be not unbelieving but believing. Blessed are those who believe and have not seen. Come to me ye who are weary, and I will give you rest. I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh, and cause you to walk in my statutes.

Closing Comment--I love the way Dr. Jones in the book Studies in the Sermon the Mount stresses in nearly every chapter that the things Jesus is asking us to be and to do is not within

our natural abilities, we need supernatural ability, we need Christ. Do you have Christ today? Anyone here need more of Christ? Closing Prayer.

Benediction:

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us...” Eph. 3:20

“Now to Him who is able to keep us from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and Authority, before all time and now and forever.” Amen Jude 24, 25