

**The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5:21-32**

**Jesus talks MAD
(Murder, Adultery, and Divorce)**

Righteousness

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness far surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

(Matt 5:20 NASB 2020)

Letter of the law - external display of righteousness

Spirit of the law – inward display of righteousness

Murder

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Come to good terms with your accuser quickly, while you are with him on the way to court, so that your accuser will not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will not be thrown into prison. Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last quadrans.

(Matt 5:21-26 NASB 2020)

You Shall Not Murder - Deuteronomy 5:17

Offence	Consequence Faced
Murder	Court
Anger	Court (judgment)
Raca (good for nothing)	Supreme court
Fool	Fiery Hell (Gehenna)



- Place of everlasting punishment
 - Valley / Son of Hinnom
- Some guilty enough to end up there

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God is concerned about the attitudes and actions that stem from our hearts

We are to live in harmony with others, live holy lives for God

Reconciliation (Important and Urgent)

1. Temple Worship

- fellow believer
- Leave the temple
- Reconcile -
apologize, make
amends
- Present your offering

2. Courtroom

- opponent
- Settle before court

Adultery

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

(Matt 5:27-30 NASB 2020)

The Problem with Lust

Noticing ✓

Staring ✗

Stare - committed adultery in the heart ✗

(creep factor) ✗

Do not covet your neighbour's wife ✗

Turns person into an object ✗

God's Intention

- a man and a woman are to be joined together as one in marriage – in a covenant relationship
- better to lose a body part than to go to hell with all of them
- If you stare...
 - Hands follow eyes
 - (feet take us to trouble)



**Let's keep our eyes on the road,
on the path where God leads**

Divorce

“Now it was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY IS TO GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’; 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.

(Matt 5:31-32 NASB 2020)

Matthew 19:6-9

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 HIS MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to 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 sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:6-9 NASB 2020

Certificate of Divorce

1. Rabbi Shammai – only for Sexual immorality
(Greek – porneia)
2. Rabbi Hillel – for an “indecentcy”

When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens, if she finds no favor in his eyes because **he has found some indecentcy in her**, that he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her away from his house,”

Deut 24:1 NASB 2020)

God's Intent

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:27

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

Marriage
Covenant



God's Covenant
with His people

Permission to Divorce

- Life can be messy!
- Goal is reconciliation and living in harmony
 - it's not always possible
- Jesus doesn't cancel/abolish what Moses said
 - Divorce permitted as a concession to human weakness

**God wants people to value each other,
be reconciled when things come up, and
to live in harmony with each other
(both inside and outside of marriage)**

God Knows...

- We all stumble (sin)
- Who has made Jesus Saviour and Lord
- Jesus died on the cross for the sin of mankind
 - Past, present, and future
 - We're forgiven
- Are we growing in righteousness?
- Does God accept remarriage in certain situations?

We need to support one another

Summary

- Jesus didn't abolish the law
 - He explained what God had intended
- Anger, insults, fighting, lust, focusing on ourselves doesn't build people up
- Value each other, be reconciled, and to live in harmony with each other
- Focus on the spirit of the law; this shows an inward display of righteousness, which comes about when our hearts are in sync with God's will.

Where's your heart today?

Psalm 19:7-14

The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold;
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, Your servant is warned by them;
In keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.
Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous sins;
Let them not rule over me;
Then I will be innocent,
And I will be blameless of great wrongdoing.
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.