

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

**MATTHEW 5:31,32**

**DECEMBER 12, 2018**

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Context: Jesus begins His ministry with the Sermon on the Mount.
  - a) The Pharisees had mishandled the Law of Moses focusing solely on the external part of the law while ignoring the matters of the heart. (Matt. 23.23; 15.8,9,18,19)
  - b) The thesis statement of the entire sermon is in Matthew 5.20.
2. As Jesus addresses the proper interpretation of the Law of Moses, He addresses divorce.

### I. THE LAW OF MOSES

- A. **MATTHEW 5.31:** *“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’”*
  1. **DEUTERONOMY 24.1:** *“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 uncleanness in her”*
  2. **DEUTERONOMY 24.1:** *“and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house.”* What is “uncleanness?” (Jer. 3.1,2,8)
- B. The scribes and Pharisees taught that one can divorce for any reason. (Matt. 19)
  1. **MATTHEW 19.1-3:** *“Is it lawful for a man to divorce for just any cause?”*
    - a) The scribes and Pharisees made appearances rather than follow the law with heart.
    - b) God’s thoughts on marriage and divorce from the beginning. (Matt. 10.4-6)
    - c) **MALACHI 2.16:** *“For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce.”*
  2. **MATTHEW 19.7:** *“Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce...?”*
    - a) **MATTHEW 19.8:** *“Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.”*
    - b) To protect the wives from frivolous divorce, husbands were restrained from divorce except for one reason – uncleanness. (Deut. 24.1; 22.13-18; 2 Sam. 13.15)
  3. **MATTHEW 19.9:** *“And I say to you...”* Jesus reiterates the Law of Moses.

### II. THE APPLICATION OF LAW

- A. **MATTHEW 5.32:** *“But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason”*
  1. In response to the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 19.3)
  2. **MATTHEW 5.32:** *“except for sexual immorality”*
    - a) Jesus did not come to change or update the Law. (Matt. 5.17)
    - b) Jesus reiterates what God already commanded through Moses. Deut. 24.1)
  3. **MATTHEW 5.32:** *“causes her to commit adultery”*
    - a) Literally, he makes her an adulterous.
    - b) Divorce causes her to be viewed by society as an adulterous. (cf. 1 John 1.10)
- B. **MATTHEW 5.32:** *“and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”*
  1. In Old Testament Law, divorce could only be initiated by the husband. (Deut. 24.1)
  2. The wife would force the husband’s hand. (Mark 10.11,12)
  3. The woman who forces her husband to divorce her, so that she can marry another.