

# A BETTER WAY: ON SPOUSES AND SPEECH

## MATTHEW 5:31-37

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - OCTOBER 27, 2024

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#### SCRIPTURE READING

##### *Matthew 5:31-37 ESV*

##### *Divorce*

31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

##### *Oaths*

33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' 34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

#### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever shared something you thought was true that you later regretted?

#### SERMON RECAP

- In a world where divorce is common, do all you can to honor the marriage covenant.
  - God designs marriage to be a beautiful, exclusive, complete, permanent union of a man and woman for our good and for the display of the gospel.
  - God hates divorce
  - God regulates divorce.
  - God is a Redeemer, Restorer, Reconciler, Helper, and Healer for everyone who trusts in Him.
- In a world where truth is hard to find, do all you can to make your every word trustworthy.
  - Speak truth about others and do not slander
  - Do not join the world in being quick to believe and spread anything you hear about people or things.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

##### **Observation: What does the passage say?**

- Read Matthew 5:31-37 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - What does the passage say about Divorce? Matthew 5:31
  - What does the passage reveal about remarriage? Matthew 5:32,
  - What does the OT cautions about making an oath? Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-36
  - What did Jesus emphasizing about telling the truth? Matthew 5:37
- How would you summarize Matthew 5:31-37?

##### **Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

- What does Jesus communicate about Marriage?
  - What is God's design for marriage? Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-7
  - What does God design for marriage depicts? Ephesians 5:22-28
  - How is God's design for marriage countercultural?
- What did the Jews misunderstand about the law of divorce? Duet 24:1-4; Matthew 19:3
- Why did Jesus say that the Mosaic law allowed divorce? Mark 10:5, Matthew 19:8

4. Why does God hate divorce? Malachi 2:15-16
5. What are other biblical grounds for divorce beyond Matthew 5:32? 1 Corinthians 7:11-12
  - What about the abused? What is God's heart for the oppressed? Psalm 82:3-4, Micah 2:1; Jeremiah 50:33-34
6. What does it mean that "anything beyond Yes and No is evil"? – Matthew 5:37; James 5:12
7. How does scripture call followers of Jesus to live with integrity? Eccl 5:5, Ephesians 4:25

***Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?***

1. How is God calling those that are married to honor the covenant of marriage?
  - If you're happily married, how is God calling you to strengthen your marriage in deeper ways to display the gospel?
  - If you're struggling in marriage, what steps is God calling you to take to work on your marriage?
  - And if your spouse is unwilling to help, how can your Church Group, or others in the church, come alongside you and be of help to you?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you?
2. How is God calling singles/divorcees/widows to honor the covenant of marriage?
  - How can you (along with married couples) honor the covenant of marriage in our culture, praying for and helping protect and nurture marriages around you?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you?
3. How is God calling you to grow in the trustworthiness of your every word?
  - Examine your heart...are there small, or significant, ways you have grown casual or flippant with truth?
  - How often do you find yourself exaggerating or underplaying the truth?
  - In what ways are you tempted to assume stories are true (e.g., social media, online or gossip) and participate in spreading false narrative?
  - How difficult is it for you to keep your "Yes" as "Yes" and "No" as "No"? How can you safeguard your word?
  - Is there anything you need to repent or make right with or about someone else?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you?
4. In light of this week's sermon, how is the Lord calling you and your Church Group to turn from the way of this world to experience the better way of Jesus.

## **LEADER NOTES**

**ELECTION PRAYER NIGHT** | If you plan to vote on November 5, please be sure to do it early and then join us that same evening for a time of devoted prayer with our pastors from 7-9 pm at MBC Tysons. All locations are invited!

**MBC TYSONS DISCIPLESHIP SEMINARS** | Join us for the upcoming MBC Tysons Discipleship Seminars on November 16. These seminars will be half-day sessions on specific topics that are designed to help us grow as disciples of Jesus. Each seminar will be 3 hours long, to include teaching, group discussion, Q&A, and opportunities to practice the topic being covered. For more information on topics covered and to register, click on the [link](#).

**Seminar Options:**

- On Sharing the Gospel with David Platt
- On Stress: From Pressure to Peace with Eliza Huie