



Jesus Teaches On Divorce

"... But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:32).

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"Wherefore they are no more twain,

but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6).

"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Matthew 5:31-32).

Many today avoid controversial or unpopular topics, which results in scarcity of sound biblical knowledge on key issues of life. The lack of true knowledge on any issue will always result in a proliferation of man's views, ideas, theories and hypothesis that often constitute "broken cisterns that hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13). Jesus was not one of such type of preachers. He boldly declared the truth and let the pieces rest where they fell.

In this text, Jesus teaches that it is scripturally wrong to divorce and re-marry except on the grounds of fornication. First, we need to understand what this "exception clause" is referring to, in order to grasp the gist of what Jesus was teaching here. In the Jewish culture at the time of Jesus' preaching, fornication could only take place before the consummation of marriage - so divorce on this ground meant that the fornication could only have taken place between the period of engagement and consummation of the marriage. The significance of this is that there is no scripturally acceptable ground for divorce and remarriage after marriage is consummated. These messages are brought out more clearly in Matthew 19:3-12 where Jesus answered questions on the subject. "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife:

and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. 10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it".

The seriousness of Jesus' message implies that decisions on marriage are more important than many other decisions in life such as career, purchase, travel, education, etc. Being so important, it demands carefulness and divine guidance in making such a once-in-a-lifetime decision. James Dobson wrote in one of his books "It is better to prepare than to repair". How true that is! It is indeed far better to prepare for a life-long relationship, than trying to repair it once it is damaged.

God has promised to guide His own. Yield to Him, and let Him guide you in your decisions.