

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2013

The Sermon on the Mount

Lesson #5: Personal Relationships (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think that divorce is as common inside the church as it is outside?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Matt 5:31-32

Note: Only the man had the right to divorce and his main restriction was that he had to issue a decree of divorce so she could remarry. A woman who was divorced in those days had little means of supporting herself and needed to remarry.

1. How does Jesus feel about divorce?

Note: Since divorce was legislated but not banned, they thought it could not be a sin. Dt 24:1-4 “The meaning of the word in Deuteronomy 24 includes every kind of improper, shameful, or indecent behavior unbecoming to a woman and embarrassing to her husband. It cannot refer to adultery, because death was the penalty for that, even if it occurred during the engagement period”¹ Lev 20:10

2. Why is Jesus coming down harder on the men than the women?

3. Since God’s original design for marriage did not include it, why is it even being discussed? Matt 19:3-9

Read Matthew 5:33- 37

Note: Any oath sworn is an oath before God and must be kept, for failure to do so is tantamount to denying God’s existence, or at best His omnipotence and omniscience.² Some Jews swore on their head instead of to God, thinking it was less binding. Jesus points out that God made their head and its unique characteristics.

4. What does Jesus expect of a believer? Lev 19:12; Num 30:2

5. Why do some Christians qualify their plans with “God willing” or D.V. (Deo Volente – the Latin equivalent)? Jas 4:13-16

6. Some say that the purpose of a believer’s life is to be a witness to the gospel. Matt 5:14-16 How would following these verses about oaths make that a reality?

7. Who do you admire as a person who lives by their word?

APPLICATION

What challenges you the most about living out these verses of the Sermon on the Mount?

¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (310). Chicago: Moody Press.

² Mills, M. S. (1999). *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record* (Mt 5:21–48). Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries.