

**THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED**

● **Matthew 5:27-30 (KJV)**

<sup>27</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

<sup>28</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

<sup>29</sup> And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

<sup>30</sup> And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Jesus begins His message to the disciples in verse 27 by refuting the mistaken traditions which the Jews had accepted from their elders. Jesus says, “You have heard them of old time.” He is referring to ancient teachers. They saw in the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment nothing more than their held belief that no man shall lie with another man’s wife. As long as a man abstained from that particular sin, he had met the requirements of this commandment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> commandment was restricted to the act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a married woman. However, Jesus insists that this commandment had a much wider scope. It included the inward affections prohibiting all impure thoughts and desires of the heart. As long as the outside of the cup and the platter was clean, the Pharisees were indifferent to whatever dirt and filth may exist within.

● **Matthew 23:25-26 (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

<sup>26</sup> Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

● **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

● **Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Adultery** – A sexual relationship that breaches a marriage relationship. It comes from the Latin word, “**adulterare**,” which is formed by the combination of “**ad**” (towards) and “**alter**” (other). It is the idea of one person moving towards another person in order to make a new personal arrangement.

**Fornication** – A sexual act when occurring outside of a marriage. Persons who have sex before getting married are called “**fornicators**.”

● **John 8:3-11 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

<sup>4</sup> They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

<sup>5</sup> Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

<sup>6</sup> This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

<sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

<sup>8</sup> And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

<sup>11</sup> She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

● **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11:2-4 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

<sup>3</sup> And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

<sup>4</sup> And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

● **Matthew 5:31-32 (KJV)**

<sup>31</sup> It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

<sup>32</sup> 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.

● **Genesis 2:24 (KJV)**

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

● **Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (MSG)**

<sup>1-4</sup> If a man marries a woman and then it happens that he no longer likes her because he has found something wrong with her, he may give her divorce papers, put them in her hand, and send her off. After she leaves, if she becomes another man's wife and he also comes to hate her and this second husband also gives her divorce papers, puts them in her hand, and sends her off, or if he should die, then the first husband who divorced her can't marry her again. She has made herself ritually unclean, and her remarriage would be an abomination in the Presence of God and defile the land with sin, this land that God, your God, is giving you as an inheritance.

● **Matthew 19:3-12 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> 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?

<sup>4</sup> And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

<sup>7</sup> They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.

<sup>11</sup> But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

● **1 Corinthians 7:3-5 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

<sup>4</sup> The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

<sup>5</sup> Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

● **1 Corinthians 7:12-16 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

<sup>13</sup> And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

<sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

<sup>15</sup> But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

<sup>16</sup> For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

● **1 Corinthians 7:7-9 (MSG)**

<sup>7</sup> Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

<sup>8-9</sup> I do, though, tell the unmarried and widows that singleness might well be the best thing for them, as it has been for me. But if they can't manage their desires and emotions, they should by all means go ahead and get married. The difficulties of marriage are preferable by far to a sexually tortured life as a single.

In a general sense, God allows 4 reasons for ending a marriage:

- 1) Death of one of the individuals in the marriage.
- 2) Adultery or immortality on the part of one of the individuals.
- 3) In 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 when Paul wrote “I say not the Lord” in that passage, he did not say that this was not from God, but rather that Jesus had never addressed the topic Himself. If your spouse decides to leave the marriage or is not willing to work with you God's way, to make the marriage work, then you are not under bondage. In other words you are not held accountable. The Christian is not bound to their marriage if one does not want to try and work things out. The word “unbeliever” has to do with not believing our marriage is worth saving.
- 4) Abuse and neglect.