

Matthew Series

Lesson #031

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

Adultery and Divorce

Matthew 5:27–32

Matt. 5:19, “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

James 2:10, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

James 2:11, “For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.”

Learning to live a life characterized by experiential righteousness develops our character and capacity for our future roles in the Messianic Millennial Kingdom.

Matt. 5:27, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ”

**καταλύω *kataluō*
aor act infin
“to destroy,
demolish, annul,
invalidate”**

Matt. 5:27, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ”

μοιχεύω *moicheuō*

fut act indic 2

sing

to commit

adultery

נאף *nʿf* Ex 20:14

qal imperf 2

masc sing

to commit

adultery

Deut. 22:22, “If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.”

Matt. 5:28, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

ἐπιθυμέω *epithumeō*

aor act infin

“to desire”

μοιχεύω *moicheuō*

fut act indic 2

sing

**“to commit
adultery”**

Matt. 15:19, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

Matt. 5:29, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Matt. 5:29, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into the Valley of Hinnom.”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחִנּוֹם (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

11× in 10 verses

Where Judah sinned by committing child sacrifice and burning their sons and daughters in the fires of Molech. Thus this symbolized a place of idolatry, disobedience to God, and spiritual failure.



Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחַיְהִים (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

OT: 11× in 10 verses

The Valley of Hinnom was not used in the Old Testament as a reference to eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire, but as a place of Divine discipline on the nation of Israel for their spiritual failure. It thus became a symbol for spiritual failure, condemnation and shame, and Divine discipline.

1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Ezek. 6:9, “Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.”

Job 31:1, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”

Matt. 5:30, “And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into the Valley of Hinnom.”

Matt. 5:31, “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

Matt. 5:32, “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

Deut. 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, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

Deut. 24:2, “when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife,”

Deut. 24:3, “if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

Deut. 24:4, “then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.”

Matt. 5:32, “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

πορνεία *porneia*
“sexual immorality”

Matt. 19:9, “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

1. In the gospel passages Jesus is addressing the problem of superficial application of the Law by the Pharisees in the matter of divorce. He is not giving an exhaustive discourse on marriage and divorce.

2. He is addressing the problem common to the history of mankind which is to minimize the lifetime monogamous commitment between one man and one woman to make divorce and remarriage more convenient.

3. In Jesus' teaching here and in Matt. 19:3–9 Jesus clearly affirms that the standard of God is a lifetime monogamous commitment.

4. However, the exception clause recognizes the realities of sin. I believe that based on Jesus' teaching here and Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 7:8–14; 27–28 that divorce is permissible for several reasons, including sexual sins, desertion, abuse, some forms of criminality.