

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 80

“31 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 KJV)

We continue to study in this message how Jesus combated the Pharisees and rebuked them in explaining that divorce is a process toward adultery. That was the battle of Jesus and the same is the battle with us today as a church facing the same kind of teachers who approve divorce and remarriage. The churches of Christ and the churches of God are infected with this sin and we need to stand firm with God’s Word and not to approve separation or divorce and remarriage.

Jesus in ***Matthew 19*** after He answered the Pharisees that divorce is not a lawful matter, He continued His teaching against divorce, and answered His disciples who came and asked Him about it, as we read here: ***“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.” (Matthew 19:10-12 KJV)***

The disciples of Jesus understood the lesson well, that He was not approving what was going on at that time; that marriages and families are broken for any cause by divorce. In fact it is well understood that Jesus is not approving divorce at all. The disciples of Jesus and the people who fear God will not do something, such as divorce and remarriage that God is displeased with. That is why His disciples told Him the following: ***“If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.” (Matthew 19:10 KJV)*** When they told Him that, He did not object. He did not tell them for example ‘No, no, you can divorce your wife’, or ‘No no you can marry, it is good to marry’, but He confirmed it to them and with a strong tone: ***“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.” (Matthew 19:11-12 KJV)*** This saying of Jesus is directed to everyone, but those who are ordained for salvation and eternity with God they will obey, and to them it is given. But those who choose to disobey then they are losing their eternity.

If Adam had rejected Eve, God would not give him another wife. Jesus told His disciples and to us today, it is better to be eunuchs than to break the arrangement of God by introducing and justifying divorce and remarriage. Jesus said that there will be some who will make themselves eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Not that to renounce marriage, but to renounce divorce and remarriage. Notice that when Jesus said, ***“... and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.” (Matthew 19:12 KJV)*** What he meant here that people who were divorced or dismissed they did not marry again so they will enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus linked salvation with what He instituted; that those who go through and perform divorce and remarriage will not be acceptable in God’s Kingdom because divorce and remarriage are adultery and adulterers and adulteress are unacceptable in the Kingdom of God.

Now those who are already divorced and seeking to marry again, we as a church we advise them not to remarry but to live for the Lord and to serve Him, so they will be saved and have eternal life with God: Those who are willing they will receive this teaching as Jesus said, ***“He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” (Matthew 19:12 KJV)***

* Now, how about those who are divorced and remarried and their ex-partners are still alive and you find them come into the church? Those to be handled in this way: If they are believers then we need to explain to them by Scriptures that their remarriage is unlawful and their relationship is adultery because their partners is still alive. * If they are non-believers, we might be more patient toward them, we need to give them the Word of God and invite them to follow Jesus, and we may need to wait a while for an opportunity, while we are praying for them, but finally, the truth needs to be told to them; that their marriage is unlawful in the sight of God. * Certain times with such marriages God would allow such couples to be separated for whatever reason. This will be our opportunity to counsel them not to reconcile or to seek another marriage because their previous partners are still alive.

In my experience in the ministry, I witnessed a good number of men and women who walk into the church and are already separated from their second marriage, or God had made a way for them to be put apart, in such a situation I just needed to comfort them and to confirm to them that what was taken place of separation between them and their second partner is just God’s work and His doing. I found a good number of them are doing good in the church and are happy to live for God and to serve Him and to care for their children.

Repeatedly Jesus mentioned the same in other gospels as we can read here: The following are further Scriptures we can read about the same subject, that God does not support divorce and remarriage:

“2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? 4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. 11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” (Mark 10:2-12 KJV) Here Jesus did not put any exemption, He considered any remarriage after divorce is adultery and for such adultery we need to advice those who remarried after divorce or who married a divorce person to

get separated because they will not enter the Kingdom of God. The Pharisees came to tempt him, but He taught them the sound teaching.

“Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.” (Luke 16:18 KJV) Again, here Jesus put no exemption, but considered remarriage after divorce is adultery.

Apostle Paul who was previously a Pharisee but repented, also understood that Jesus is not agreeing with divorce and remarriage, and thus what he instructed: ***“10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.” (1 Corinthians 7:10-11 KJV)*** The recommendation was that the wife should not depart from her husband. So in such Apostle Paul did not approve and go along the stand of the Pharisees about divorce and remarriage.

Now with the statement about the wife: ***“But and if she depart,” (1 Corinthians 7:11 KJV)*** What Paul meant here that there must be a grave reason for her to depart like the man has another woman besides his wife, or the physical life of the wife is threatened with her husband that she may die at any time. What I want to say that the apostle here when he allows the woman to depart it is allowed to depart for a serious issue and not for a trivial and non-Biblical reason and that is why he said, ***“Let not the wife depart from her husband”***. So in counseling, we need to be aware and not to allow divorce or separation for a non-Biblical and clear reason. Many men and women will try escaping their marriage responsibilities or quit their responsibilities using non-convincing reasons and stories to accuse their partner in order to be separated; in such situations we as a church are accountable before God; we should not give them approval, but instead, we need to tell them again their responsibilities and accountability to the vow of marriage that they had made to God and not to man in their wedding date. We need to advise them and pray for them to go back to their partner and obey God.

If the man or the woman had already, left his/her partner for any reason, then counseling and advising should be started with them till circumstances or situations are rectified and got reconcile and reunited again. No room will be allowed for separation, divorce, and remarriage.

“12 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. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.” (1 Corinthians 7:12-13 KJV) The instruction of Paul to the believers is that if your spouse is non believer you should not put away. That confirm our responsibility toward marriage that separation and putting away is against God’s will because that when it happen adultery will take place and that is the purpose of the devil, and we rebuke it in the name of Jesus by obeying God, ***“4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4 KJV)***

There are churches who use what Apostle Paul said, ***“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.” (1 Corinthians 7:15 KJV) Now when Paul said that he really does not mean that the brother or the sister whom their partners had left them, they are allowed to remarry. Because that would contradict with what Paul said earlier in verses 10 and 11, that the woman who left her husband to remain unmarried, ***“10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.” (1 Corinthians 7:10-11 KJV)*** and with what he said later on, ***“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 7:39 KJV)*** So even for Apostle Paul there is no room for remarriage after divorce.

Apostle Paul stated the same in Romans, that woman cannot remarry under any condition as long as her husband is still alive. ***“1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” (Romans 7:1-3 KJV)*** and vice versa for the man is also true; that man cannot remarry under any condition as long as his wife is still alive.

Now, how about the issue of the single father or the single mother? Once there is a child between a man or a woman in whatever circumstances, whether there is marriage paper, no marriage paper, whether rape, unknown father, whether adultery these all consider as marriage because the presence of a child means the two had united and became one and the fruit of having a child it came from God and therefore we consider that as marriage based on these Scriptures, ***“16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.” (1 Corinthians 6:16 KJV)*** The single father and the single mother cannot go and marry another partner if the father or the mother of his or her child is alive. If the partner is available for marriage we advice them to complete the family and marry, but if the partner is not available they cannot go and remarry another partner; so we advice them to live for Christ and care for their children. So they will be as Jesus described those who made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake as we read here, ***“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.” (Matthew 19:12 KJV)*** We as Church of God UAE, don’t approve to such to go and marry other than the father or other than the mother of their children, because that would be considered divorce and remarriage and that is against Jesus’ instruction, and if they will do such their children will do the same sin and that nullify the purpose of God in marriage to raise up Godly offspring. ***“13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal***

treacherously against the wife of his youth.” (Malachi 2:13-15 KJV) Marriage is a covenant with God not with man, but divorce and separation is a violation to your covenant with God. In **Malachi 2:15** when is said, **“And did not he make one”**, it means he made one partner and so no way for divorce and marrying another. **God made one partner because He wants Godly offspring and so He does not want divorce because divorce destroys the family and the children. Therefore for such a reason God hates divorce; because divorce and separation is betrayal towards God and betrayal to your partner in marriage.**

How about a relationship between man and woman but there is no children, what action we take as a church? We advice them to cut that immoral relationship, and we don't advice marriage. Why? So others will not be encouraged to do the same and waiting from us as a church to push them to marry.

My dear and beloved: As a church Jesus wants us to stand firm with Him and to condemn separation, divorce and remarriage. Now let us come to the Lord in repentance. Let us consider our ways and fear Him. Let us renew our commitment and our covenant with God, by renouncing divorce and remarriage, and by keeping families and marriages intact, and by our willingness to follow the outlines that Jesus and God's Word instruct us with.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. I thank you Lord for your Word that showed me the truth about the sin of divorce and remarriage and how it is considered adultery.*

Confess and renounce the sin of the immorality in the form of divorce and the remarriage and renounce the false teaching that allow divorce and remarriage to the members of the body of Christ. Lord I confess and renounce the practice of divorce and remarriage. Lord I commit myself to teach others against such a false teaching.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and who committed their lives against the false teaching of divorce and remarriage. Lord protect them and guide them and provide all their needs and lead them to reach other people and teach them your ways and to live according to your will. Lord I pray for the protection of their families and all the families of those whom we are reaching out.

Lord bless us as a church to continue to teach and to preach your Word and to combat the false teaching of divorce and remarriage. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and enable us to reach new people and new places with the Gospel of Christ. Lord enable us to make new disciples and train more workers to serve you. Lord go before us and use us to plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 80. Matthew 5:31-32. Matthew 19:10-12. Mark 10:2-12. Luke 16:18. 1 Corinthians 7:10-13, 15, 39. Hebrews 13:4. Romans 7:1-3. 1 Corinthians 6:16. Malachi 2:13-15.

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