

## Marriage & How We Treat Women (Matthew 5:27-37)

# THE WAY

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

### Threefold pattern:

"You have heard it said..."

Traditional Teaching

"But I tell you..."

Vicious Cycle

Jesus' way of life

Transforming initiative

### Threefold pattern:

TRADITIONAL TEACHING

VICIOUS CYCLE

TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE

### Adultery (5:27-30)

#### TRADITIONAL TEACHING

v.27: "You have heard that it was said,  
'You shall not commit adultery.'

10 Commandments

Marriage as a covenant

Marriage/Adultery: God's relationship  
with us



## Adultery (5:27-30)

### VICIOUS CYCLE

v.28: "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Ongoing sinful cycle of lust

vv.29,30: "stumble" - very serious



## Adultery (5:27-30)

### TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE

vv.29,30: "if your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out... if your right hand causes you to stumble... cut it off"

Separate ourselves from situations of lust



## Adultery (5:27-30)

TRADITIONAL TEACHING: do not commit adultery

VICIOUS CYCLE: lust and seeking out opportunities for lust causes issues and is actually in fact adultery itself or is a slippery slope toward adultery

TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE: remove yourself from temptation, set up barrierS, the responsibility is on you



## Divorce (5:31-32)

### TRADITIONAL TEACHING:

v.31: "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'"

From Deuteronomy 24, Moses, legal process

Only men could initiate divorce

Divorce was happening

Protection toward women





## Divorce (5:31-32)

### VICIOUS CYCLE:

v.32: connects divorce and adultery;  
unlawful divorces

Jesus addresses the mistreatment of women

See Matthew 19: Jesus and the Pharisees on  
divorce

"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for  
any and every reason?" (v.3)

"what God has joined together, let no one  
separate" (v.6)



## Divorce (5:31-32)

### TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE:

go be reconciled (v.24) and remove  
yourself from temptations that could  
lead to adultery (vv.29-30).



## Divorce (5:31-32)

TRADITIONAL TEACHING: when initiating a  
divorce, do it lawfully

VICIOUS CYCLE: divorce, especially when done  
unlawfully and without good reason but also  
when seen as a common and an easy option,  
involves people in adultery, mistreats women  
(especially in the patriarchal culture), and  
moves us further away from God's vision for  
marriage

TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE: be reconciled  
with one another and also remove ourselves  
from temptations or cycles of lust that could  
build toward adultery



## OATHS (5:33-37)

### TRADITIONAL TEACHING:

v.33: "...you have heard that it was said  
to the people long ago, 'Do not break  
your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the  
vows you have made.'"

OT references: Do not bear false  
witness, vows made to the Lord, etc.





## OATHS (5:33-37)

### VICIOUS CYCLE:

vv.34-36: "do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven... or by earth... or by Jerusalem... And do not swear by your head"

See Matthew 23: Jesus and the Pharisees, swearing by the gold of the temple vs. Swearing by the temple

Not against oaths, against dishonesty



## OATHS (5:33-37)

### TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE:

v.37: "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'"

Let your yes be yes, and your no be no

Speak truthfully and honestly; honour your commitments



## OATHS (5:33-37)

TRADITIONAL TEACHING: do not make false oaths or swear falsely or bear false witness

VICIOUS CYCLE: swearing by anything involves you in a false claim and makes you someone others might distrust

TRANSFORMING INITIATIVE: let your yes be yes and your no be no; be people of truth and honesty



## Interesting Themes

The Beatitudes are showing up in these teachings, like peacemaking and mercy

Jesus is culturally subversive

Ex: caring for women in a patriarchal culture - a vulnerable group

The transforming initiatives will help us intentionally care for marginalized and vulnerable people





## Takeaways

Remove ourselves from temptation; set up barriers, accountability partners, and whatever else that would be helpful; recognize that we are responsible for our own lust and the cycles we get into



## Takeaways

Be reconciled with one another; choose to work out conflicts, be peacemakers, be humble and recognize our wrongdoing, and seek to come to a resolution

Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Marriage relationships: choose reconciliation; choose God's picture for flourishing marriages; invest in healthy marriages.



## Takeaways

Let your yes be yes and your no be no; be people of truth and honesty in such a way that no one doubts our word; let our character reflect that we are followers of Christ and be honest people.

