

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 83-Sermon on the Mount: Divorce and Remarriage

Sunday AM-September 27, 2026

Document Overview & Introduction

This study guide provides a comprehensive review of the teaching on "Divorce and Remarriage" from Matthew 5:31–32, delivered as Lesson 83 in the verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Matthew. The lesson focuses on the Sermon on the Mount, which is the first of five major discourses (sermons) delivered by Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew.

In this message, Jesus Christ confronts the religious leaders of His day—the scribes and Pharisees—unmasking their hypocrisy. The Pharisees had invented human traditions to lower God's standards regarding marriage. They misinterpreted passages like Deuteronomy 24:1–4 to create a system where a man could easily divorce his wife for almost any reason. Jesus Christ sets the record straight by restoring God's original, holy design for marriage and establishing that divorce violates God's Word, except in the specific case of sexual immorality.

The study guide also explores:

- **God's Design for Marriage:** Grounded in Genesis 2:23–24, where God created man (*ish*) and woman (*isha*) to be joined together as one flesh.
- **Societal Consequences:** The devastating social, emotional, and psychological effects of broken families, including rising mental illness, suicide rates, and a lack of self-control among youth.
- **Four Contemporary Views:** The common viewpoints surrounding divorce and remarriage in modern culture.
- **God's Grace and Healing:** The comforting truth that the only unpardonable sin is the rejection of Jesus Christ, and that God offers full forgiveness and restoration to those wounded by divorce.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Instructions: Answer each of the following ten questions in 2 to 3 complete sentences based on the lesson context.

1. What is the primary Scripture passage from the Sermon on the Mount examined in this lesson, and what exception regarding divorce does Jesus Christ state?
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees misinterpret Deuteronomy 24:1–4, and how did they alter God's standard for divorce?
3. What are the four contemporary options regarding divorce and remarriage outlined in the sermon?

4. What major statistical trends and social problems resulting from divorce were highlighted during the message?
 5. According to the lesson, what is the single most important reason believers must oppose divorce?
 6. How does Genesis 2:23–24 describe the creation of man and woman and God's original design for marriage?
 7. What worship songs were presented by the New Life Kids Praise Team, and which Scripture passages inspired them?
 8. What did the pastor state regarding forgiveness and the unpardonable sin for those who have experienced divorce?
 9. What is the purpose of the church's New Life Mentorship Program, and what practical skills does it teach?
 10. What community ministries and upcoming support efforts were announced in the church service?
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Answer Key

1. Jesus Christ taught Matthew 5:31–32 during His Sermon on the Mount, declaring that whoever divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery. He stated that the only biblical exception permitting divorce is sexual immorality, and that anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
2. The scribes and Pharisees twisted Deuteronomy 24:1–4 to create an easy system that allowed men to discard their wives for any minor whim. They changed God's high standard into a human standard that justified their own sin while falsely claiming they were obeying God.
3. The four views are: 1) no divorce ever; 2) divorce allowed, but no remarriage ever; 3) divorce and remarriage whenever and whatever; and 4) divorce and remarriage permitted only under certain limited circumstances.
4. The lesson noted that the divorce rate increased by 700% during the 20th century, with over 40% to nearly 50% of marriages ending in divorce today. This trend contributes to severe emotional distress, higher rates of mental illness, lack of self-control, and increased suicide among young people.
5. Although the negative social impacts of divorce are severe, the most vital reason to oppose divorce is that it violates the Word of God. Christians must base their convictions directly on what Scripture teaches rather than inventing ideas to solve social problems.
6. Genesis 2:23–24 explains that God created woman (*isha*) out of man (*ish*) to complete him. God ordained that a man shall leave his father and mother, cling to his wife, and that the two shall become one flesh.
7. The children sang songs paired with Psalm 119:105 ("Your word is a lamp unto my feet"), Psalm 103 (praising God for His redemptive benefits), and Isaiah 6:1–3 (Isaiah's vision of God's holiness and the Seraphim).
8. The pastor emphasized that Jesus Christ loves everyone who has been impacted by divorce and offers complete healing. The only unpardonable sin is the rejection of Jesus Christ; all other sins and past failures can be cleansed through God's mercy and grace.
9. The New Life Mentorship Program meets following the monthly men's breakfast to teach practical life skills to younger boys and girls. Participants learn essential tasks such as changing vehicle tires, changing oil, managing basic checkbook accounting, and performing household repairs.
10. Announcements highlighted care packages for OC containing hygiene items, a baby clothes giveaway by the We Care Pregnancy Center, and a fundraiser for Intended Hope Ministries, an organization that assists abused spouses in the community.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Reflect on the sermon context and compose detailed responses for the following five essay prompts.

1. Analyze how the Pharisees corrupted Old Testament law to excuse their personal sins, and contrast their legalistic traditions with the authoritative teaching of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:31–32.
2. Examine the societal and psychological consequences of broken families described in the lesson. Explain why returning to God's Biblical principles is presented as the only true solution to this social epidemic.
3. Evaluate the four contemporary viewpoints on divorce and remarriage. Discuss why believers must carefully align their personal beliefs with the exact context of Scripture rather than human preferences or cultural trends.
4. Detail the creation model of marriage found in Genesis 2:23–24 using the Hebrew terms *ish* and *isha*. How does this passage establish marriage as a lifelong, spiritual, and physical unity?
5. Discuss how the sermon balances the holy, unyielding standard of God's Word against divorce with the compassionate message of salvation, healing, and grace for those who have experienced marital failure.

Lesson Summary Table

Category	Key Information & Scriptural Context
Primary Passage	Matthew 5:31–32 (Sermon on the Mount)
Old Testament Foundation	Genesis 2:23–24 (Creation of <i>ish</i> and <i>isha</i>); Deuteronomy 24:1–4
Worship Passages	Psalms 119:105; Psalm 103:1–5; Isaiah 6:1–3
Main Theme	Upholding God's standard for marriage against human tradition and cultural compromise
Key Exception	Divorce is forbidden except in cases of sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32)
Ultimate Remedy	Returning to the truth of Scripture and receiving the grace, mercy, and forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Adultery:** Marital unfaithfulness or sexual relations outside of marriage. Jesus Christ declared that divorcing a spouse for reasons other than sexual immorality causes adultery to take place upon remarriage.
- **Certificate of Divorce:** A legal document referenced in Matthew 5:31 and Deuteronomy 24:1–4 given to formalize the termination of a marriage contract.
- **Discourse:** A formal, structured sermon or teaching session. The Gospel of Matthew contains five major discourses delivered by Jesus Christ, beginning with the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Ish:** The Hebrew word for "man" used in Genesis 2:23–24.
- **Isha:** The Hebrew word for "woman" used in Genesis 2:23–24, denoting that she was taken out of man to be his companion and completion.
- **Pharisees:** A strict religious group during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ whose legalistic traditions and self-righteous hypocrisies were repeatedly exposed by Him.
- **Sermon on the Mount:** The sermon taught by Jesus Christ in Matthew chapters 5 through 7, establishing the spiritual principles and morals of the Kingdom of God.
- **Seraphim:** Six-winged heavenly beings depicted in Isaiah 6:1–3 who surround the throne of God, perpetually declaring His supreme holiness.
- **Sexual Immorality:** Illicit sexual behavior or unfaithfulness, identified by Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:32 as the sole biblical exception that permits divorce.
- **Unpardonable Sin:** The ultimate, final refusal to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, recognized as the only sin that cannot be forgiven.

Greek Words Section

An analysis of the Source Context reveals that no Greek words or Greek transliterations were explicitly spoken or used in the transcript.^[^1] The original biblical language terms explicitly mentioned by the speaker were Hebrew words (*ish* and *isha* from Genesis 2:23–24). Consequently, no Greek phonetic pronunciation guides or definitions are applicable to this context.

[^1]: The Source Context contains quotations from the New Testament (specifically Matthew 5:31–32 using the NKJV English translation), but does not explicitly cite or define any Greek vocabulary words within the provided text.