

## DEALING WITH DIVORCE

### Matthew 5:31-32

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Before we look at what the Lord Jesus-
  - i. Said about divorce in these verses-
  - ii. I want to remind us of some of the important things-
  - iii. The Bible says about marriage-

#### II. THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE-

- a. The Bible teaches that marriage-
  - i. Is very important and sacred to God-
  - ii. In fact, the very first wedding ceremony-
  - iii. Was performed by God Himself-
    - 1. When He presented Eve to Adam in the Garden of Eden-
    - 2. And joined them together in marriage-
- b. The Bible defines marriage-
  - i. As the union of one man and one woman-
  - ii. Who in a public ceremony before God and man-
  - iii. Commit themselves to each other for life-
- c. The Bible teaches that not only is marriage-
  - i. A social contract preformed before man-
  - ii. More importantly every marriage-
    - 1. Is a sacred commitment made before God-
    - 2. This is true even of marriages involving unbelievers-
- d. *Matthew 19:5-6 (NKJV) "...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*
- e. God created marriage for man's good-
  - i. He intends for marriage to be-
  - ii. Permanent, productive and pleasant-
- f. God intends for every marriage-

- i. To be a Christian marriage-
  - ii. And every home to be a godly home-
- g. Because marriage is sacred to God-
  - i. And because God holds every person accountable-
  - ii. For their conduct in their marriage-
  - iii. And their commitment to their marriage-
    - 1. Marriage is never to be entered into lightly-
    - 2. And it is certainly never to be ended lightly-

### III. WHEN IS DIVORCED ALLOWED-

- a. We live in a fallen world-
  - i. And even though divorce was never the intention of God-
  - ii. The Bible says that because of the sinfulness of man-
  - iii. God allows divorce in certain situations-
- b. It is important that we understand that divorce-
  - i. Is never commanded in the Bible-
  - ii. It is only allowed-
- c. Divorce is never to be the first option in dealing with marital problems-
  - i. Every marriage will have its problems-
  - ii. Even Christian marriages-
- d. Understanding the importance and the sacredness of marriage-
  - i. Christians mates should do all they can-
  - ii. To resolve their problems in Christian love-
  - iii. And in a way that honors God--
- e. Divorce must always be the last resort for marital problems-
  - i. The Bible mentions only three instances-
  - ii. In which divorce is allowed-
- f. #1, ADULTERY. *Matthew 5:32 (NKJV) "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."*
- g. In this verse, Jesus allows divorce in the case of adultery-
  - i. Adultery is when a married person-

- ii. Is physically intimate with someone-
  - iii. Other than their spouse-
- h. Divorce is not commanded in such a case-
  - i. But if reconciliation and renewal of the marriage bond is not possible-
  - ii. Then the offended mate has the Biblical right-
  - iii. To divorce their adulterous mate-
- i. In verse 32, Jesus warns that the one who causes a divorce-
  - i. Sets in motion a chain reaction-
  - ii. Of destructive and damaging consequences-
- j. Someone has calculated that from spouses to children and beyond-
  - i. One divorce has a direct and immediate effect-
  - ii. On at least 40 different people-
    - 1. Not counting the damaging effect-
    - 2. Every divorce has on society as a whole-
- k. #2, ABANDONMENT. In 1 Corinthians 7-
  - i. Paul discusses several issues-
  - ii. Dealing with marriage-
- l. In this chapter Paul says that if a person who is married becomes a Christian-
  - i. But their spouse does not-
  - ii. Then the Christian spouse should stay in their marriage-
    - 1. And be a good witness and a holy influence-
    - 2. On their unbelieving spouse and to their children-
- m. But if the unbelieving spouse refuses to live with their believing mate-
  - i. And abandons the marriage because their mate has become a Christian-
  - ii. Then Paul says the believing spouse should allow-
    - 1. Their unbelieving mate to depart-
    - 2. *1 Corinthians 7:15 "But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace."*
- n. Paul said in such a case the bond of marriage is broken-
  - i. And the believing spouse is free to remarry-

- ii. But only in the Lord-
- o. #3, ABUSE. The reason why divorce-
  - i. Was allowed in the Old Testament in the first place-
  - ii. Was to protect a wife from the abuses of a cruel husband-
- p. God does not expect a spouse-
  - i. To stay in a marriage in which they and their children-
  - ii. Are in constant and real danger from an abusive mate-
- q. The Bible teaches with the right of divorce-
  - i. Comes the right to marry again-
  - ii. But as 1 Corinthians 7:39 teaches-
  - iii. Believers are to remarry only within the Lord's will-

#### **IV. WORDS OF COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE DIVORCED-**

- a. Because divorced people sometime feel beat up in the church-
  - i. I wanted to share some words of comfort and encouragement-
  - ii. With those who may be divorced and with the church-
- b. To the victims of divorce-
  - i. I tell you that God loves you and He cares for you-
  - ii. And He is sorry for the pain you have experienced-
- c. I urge you to ask God to help you to -
  - i. Forgive your unfaithful mate and find peace-
  - ii. Don't let the root of bitterness set up in your life-
- d. If you are not a Christian-
  - i. I urge you to receive Jesus Christ-
  - ii. As your personal Savior and Lord today-
- e. To those who may have been guilty of causing a divorce in the past-
  - i. I want you to know that God is a God of mercy and grace-
  - ii. He is willing to forgive this and any sin-
- f. And God will forgive you-
  - i. If you are truly sorry for what you have done-
  - ii. And if you will seek His forgiveness and grace-

- g. You may not be able to undo what you have done-
  - i. And you may have to live with the consequences-
  - ii. Of your actions for the rest of your life-
  
- h. But God can and will forgive you if you will truly turn to Him-
  - i. And you can live a productive and blessed life-
  - ii. If you will get right and stay right with God-
  - iii. By giving your life to Lord Jesus Christ-
  
- i. To the church I say that while we are to take an uncompromising stand-
  - i. On the sacredness and the sanctity of marriage-
  - ii. And while we always stay true to what the Bible teaches-
  - iii. Concerning marriage and divorce-
  
- j. We need to love those who have experienced divorce-
  - i. Especially if they are our fellow Christians-
  - ii. And not force them to always wear a scarlet “D”-
  
- k. If God has forgiven the one who has caused a divorce then so should we-
  - i. And we should give comfort and care-
  - ii. To those who are the victims of divorce-

## V. CONCLUSION-

- a. When was the last time you thanked God for your mate?
  - i. When was the last time that you prayed for your mate?
  - ii. When was the last time you told your mate-
    - 1. How grateful you were for them-
    - 2. And how much they meant to you?
  
- b. If you are not a Christian-
  - i. I urge you to receive Jesus Christ-
  - ii. As your personal Savior and Lord today-