

## **King Jesus Gospel \_ Ep. 8**

### **Matthew 5:31–37 (NLT):**

31 "You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

33 "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.' 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. 35 And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

## **Jesus was not dismissing the letter of the law, He was reminding them of the spirit of the law.**

*Bakers Bible Encyclopedia:*

*Not only did Jesus reaffirm the validity of the "one flesh" union for the community of redemption, but the NT reinforced the inviolability of the marriage bond by defining it as an earthly copy of the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph 5:25).*

*Despite such strong sanctions for the permanency of the marriage bond, the NT permits divorce as an exception intended to protect the innocent spouse in the case of immorality and desertion. Jesus made exceptions that established the right of a spouse wronged by an unfaithful mate to press for divorce (Mt 5:32; 19:9). Obviously, the wronged spouse has the option of maintaining the marriage bond despite the breach of commitment by the unfaithful mate. But in view of the exception allowed by Scripture, the obligation to maintain or reinstate the disrupted marriage may not be imposed upon the innocent spouse.*

*The other exception that justifies divorce according to the NT is desertion. Although the provisions of 1 Corinthians 7:15 refer primarily to desertion by an unbelieving spouse, it should be noted that a believer guilty of desertion is to be treated as an unbeliever (1 Tm 5:8). Behavior equivalent to the abandonment of the marriage relationship constitutes a breach of conjugal commitment and becomes subject to the provision stated in 1 Corinthians 7:15.*

*In either case, adultery or desertion, the aggrieved party has the right to seek divorce from the offending spouse and, having obtained it, becomes again a single person. Should repentance and reconciliation fail to restore the violated union, the aggrieved spouse is not bound to the marriage. According to Scripture, a person who is not bound is free to remarry, but only "in the Lord," meaning to another Christian (1 Cor 7:39). The injunction for a single person who does not have the gift of celibacy to marry (1 Cor 7:9) applies to a person formerly married but who has become single by a scripturally legitimate divorce. In keeping with Christ's teaching in Mark 10:11, 12 and Luke 16:18, the remarriage of believers may not be approved when the divorce has been used as a means of changing mates, since such intent makes the divorce adulterous.*

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**Marriage points us to a larger story: Jesus' covenant relationship with the Church.**

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-7;10-12 (NLT)**

*Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. <sup>2</sup> But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.*

*<sup>3</sup> The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. <sup>4</sup> The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.*

*<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other of sexual relations unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup> I say this as a concession, not as a command. <sup>7</sup> But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another.*

*<sup>10</sup> But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a fellow believer has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her.*

*<sup>13</sup> And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him.*

**Covenants are strong bonds built upon vows.**

**Submit to Jesus' authority.**

**Serve others with humility.**

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### **Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

### **PRACTICING THE WAY**

*As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.*

**Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), slowly.**

### **Meditate on each phrase of this Gospel summary:**

The Gospel is the good news that God our Father, the Creator, out of His great love for us, has come to rescue us from sin, satan, death and hell, and to renew all things, in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, to establish His kingdom, through His people who participate in loyal allegiance in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is for God's great glory and our profound joy.

### **Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)**

- Read Matthew 5:31-37. Sunday's message was about being bonded in love to each other through Christ. Did anything speak to you or stir a question within you?
- Why is divorce and marriage important to God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-13. What are these verses saying to you?
- Long before we divorce, we separate because of selfishness. Serving others is the antidote to selfishness. What are some ways you can serve others this week?
- Inner Vows are commitments we turn inward, bonding to ourselves. Spend a few minutes in silent prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any inner vows you have made. Then repent from them.

