

## THE BOND THAT MUST NOT BE BROKEN

Text: Matthew 5:31,32

INTRODUCTION: This is a difficult subject with which to deal. But this reveals the value of systematic Bible preaching and study, for I would never choose this subject.

When Jesus laid down this law for marriage, He laid it down against a very definite situation. There is no time in history when the marriage bond stood in greater peril of almost total destruction than in the days when Jesus came into the world. At that time the world was in danger of witnessing the complete break-down of marriage and the collapse of the home. Christianity had two backgrounds: the Jewish world and the world of the Romans and Greeks. Both worlds had greatly degraded the marriage relationship.

Ant/divorce is short of God's intent for marriage. There are no half-way ideals. Mal. 2:15,16-"I hate divorce."

In these verses our Lord's purpose was to correct the perversion, the false teaching of the Pharisees and scribes concerning the law of Moses.

### I. WHAT MOSES TAUGHT ABOUT DIVORCE

Deut. 24:1-4- Adultery is not mentioned because they stoned them to death.

1. The object is to control divorce. - *Chaotic conditions*
2. The law laid down three principles.

(1) Limited divorce to certain causes.

(2) The man had to give a <sup>Bill</sup> writing of divorcement to the woman. This was for protection against the woman being stoned to death and against the man making a hasty decision. It made divorce something formal and serious.

(3) He could not marry her again.

Marriage is not something you can walk out of and in to at will. Do not enter marriage with the back door left open.

### II. WHAT THE PHARISEES TAUGHT ABOUT DIVORCE

They perverted the teachings of Moses and said that He commanded them to divorce.

### III. WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT DIVORCE

1. The Nature of marriage--a Divinely ordained union, sacred. The two become one flesh. It is not a civil contract, but some inseparable, and indissoluble.

2. God has never anywhere commanded anybody to divorce.

We must get rid of this legalistic approach that makes a man say, "She has spoiled my life. I must divorce her." As unworthy and undeserving sinners we all have been forgiven by the grace of God, and that must enter in and control our view of everything that happens to us-- especially in the relationship of marriage.

Jesus' warning against re-marriage may be an indication of His longing for wide room for a repentance and forgiveness

3. There is only one legitimate cause and reason for divorce-- here called fornication.

- (1) This is relevant because we hear so many reasons given today. Incompatibility is not mentioned in the Bible. Early Christians faced this. Should they live with unsaved mates?
- (2) Fornication is the only thing that breaks the marriage bond. It is the question of one flesh--and the person who is guilty of adultery has broken the bond and become united to another. The link is severed, the one flesh no longer obtains, and therefore divorce is ~~legitimate~~- legitimate.

4. Divorce for any other reason leads to adultery.

There is only one thing that can break this bond. There-  
for if you put your wife away for any other reason you are putting her away without breaking the bond. In this way you are making her break the bond is she should marry again-- separate but not divorce.

Do not play fast and loose with God's Word in this matter.