

Divorce & Remarriage
Excerpts from Matthew

Part II

“Torah’s marriage vows”

Divorce

Summary from last week:

- 1) *God gets divorce better than anyone because HE is a divorcee and thus in His deep empathy, love, and care as a Divorcee AND FATHER wants to protect people*
 - 2) *Initiates the Certificate of Divorce, not to approve of divorce, but rather to call a spade a spade and protect the victim from the person that broke the marriage vows by giving them rights*
 - 3) *Makes our question clear...the one that sins is the one that breaks the VOWS*
 - 4) *He adds more rights for the victim than just adultery*
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Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

- 1) *God is a divorcee*
- 2) *Certificate of Divorce = Product of The Divorcee's pain (Deut. 24:1-4)*
- 3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

Ex. 21:10-11 “If he takes another wife to himself (in addition to the slave he married), he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights. [11] And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.”

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

a) *Polygamy was a reality at this time & thus allowed & addressed in the Torah*

b) *Case Law*

i. *Statutes = laws or regulation*

ii. *Case Law = a collection of decisions made by judges in actual cases that established a new legal PRINCIPLE
Today we call it “Interpretive Intent”*

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

What the Rabbi's determined about Ex. 21:10-11:

- a) If a slave had the right to divorce her husband who neglected to provide her food, clothing/shelter, or conjugal love then a FREE WOMAN would certainly have the same right
 - b) If multiple wives had this right certainly ONE WIFE had this right
 - c) If a wife had this right certainly a husband had this right
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Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

Four marriage vows as determined in the Torah:

- a) Adultery or unfaithfulness = Deut. 24:1-4
- b) Neglecting to provide food = Ex. 21:10-11
- c) Neglecting to provide clothing = Ex. 21:10-11
- d) Neglecting “conjugal love” = Ex. 21:10-11

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

Marriage vows today:

- a) Love = Be faithful
- b) Honor or nourish as it was originally used = provide food/clothing
- c) Keep or cherish = provide conjugal love

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

3) *Neglect & Abuse = Exodus 21:10-11*

Marriage vows today:

- a) Love = Be faithful
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Eph. 5:28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

- *God is a divorcee*
 - *Certificate of Divorce = Product of The Divorcee's pain (Deut. 24:1-4)*
 - *Neglect & Abuse = Marriage Vows (Ex. 21:10-11/Deut. 24:1-4)*
- 1) God kept all four of His marriage vows and of course He was faithful to Israel (God provided food, clothing/shelter, love, faithfulness)

 - 2) *But Israel did not keep her marriage vows*
 - a) She did not return God's love
 - b) She was unfaithful to Him instead with idols (Ez. 16:15)
 - c) She presented idols with the food that God had given her (Ez. 16:19)
 - d) She decorated idols with clothing & jewels which God had honored her with (Ez. 16:16-18)

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

Listen to how the OT paints God's marriage partner:

- Hosea – told to marry a prostitute who continued to be unfaithful to him to illustrate how Israel treated God her Husband
- Ezekiel – described how Israel committed adultery against God with other gods that led to their divorce (chapter 16 & 23)
- Jeremiah – warns Judah to be careful because she was doing the same thing as her sister to the North, Israel (Jer. 3 & 4)
- Isaiah – talks about how God wants to move past their “separation” (Is. 50)

Divorce

God & Israel as our backdrop: 3 necessary table setters

- 1) God kept all four of His marriage vows and of course He was faithful to Israel (God provided food, clothing/shelter, love, faithfulness)
- 2) *But Israel did not keep her marriage vows*
- 3) *All the while God stayed faithful to Israel His bride*
- 4) *And yet the marriage ultimately fails*

Divorce

Summary of our learnings thus far:

- 1) *Marriage is a lifelong covenant & the vows are the stipulations of that contract*
- 2) *The bible does not say, “Those whom God has joined, no man can separate” but rather, “LET no man separate” meaning DIVORCE IS POSSIBLE - It is possible but clearly not preferable*
- 3) *No one should initiate a divorce unless their spouse is guilty of repeatedly or unrepentantly breaking their marriage vows as outlined in the Torah*
- 4) *The Biblical grounds for divorce are adultery, neglect & abuse which are equivalent to breaking the marriage vows*

And what are the marriage vows from the Torah?

- *Adultery or unfaithfulness*
- *Neglecting to provide food*
- *Neglecting to provide clothing/shelter*
- *Neglecting “conjugal love”*

Divorce

Summary of our learnings thus far:

- 5) *God is a Divorcee = deeply empathetic and protecting*
- 6) *The victim, meaning the person that “files for divorce” is not the one the bible points to as the person who kills the marriage and thus sins, but instead it is the person who BREAKS THE MARRIAGE VOWS that sins and causes divorce*
- 7) *The certificate of divorce*
 - a) *God’s protection, His legal process for protecting the person whose marriage had already been broken*
 - b) *It is God’s way of making the person whole again after separating from another*
 - c) *They became one flesh through marriage, and upon separation the certificate of divorce makes them whole again*
- 8) *Case Law vs. Statutes & the proper understanding of Exodus 21*
 - *Love = faithful*
 - *Honor or nourish as it was originally used = food & clothing/shelter*
 - *Keep or cherish = conjugal love*