

Briefing Document: Matthew Lesson 84-Sermon on the Mount – Divorce and Remarriage

Sunday AM-October 4, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document summarizes the sermon "Sermon on the Mount - Divorce and Remarriage (Lesson 84)," delivered at New Life Family Worship Center. The core message focuses on God's foundational design for marriage and the biblical stance on divorce. The primary premise established in the teaching is that divorce cannot be understood without first understanding marriage as God ordained it: a lifelong, monogamous union between one man and one woman.

The sermon highlights that God never intended for marriages to end in divorce. Scripture shows that Moses allowed certificates of divorce only as a concession due to the hardness of human hearts, not as a divine command. Additionally, the document captures key congregational updates, including foreign mission endeavors, children's sign language instruction, and local fellowship news.

Theological Themes and Biblical Analysis

1. God's Original Design for Marriage

The sermon emphasizes that God created marriage as a permanent physical, spiritual, and emotional union between one man and one woman.

- **Core Principle:** Understanding God's view on separation requires first understanding His definition of union. As stated in the sermon:

"You cannot understand divorce unless you understand marriage. You will never understand how God views a separation until you fully understand how God defines a union."

- **The Concept of Oneness:** Citing Genesis 2:24, the speaker notes:

"A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

- **Glued Together:** The terms "joined," "cleave," and "cling" in Hebrew communicate being glued or welded together into a single entity.
- **Intimacy vs. Selfishness:** True marriage requires a complete blending of minds, wills, and emotions. Physical intimacy without spiritual oneness is self-centered and exploitative. God created marriage so that a woman would complete a man in mutual selflessness.

2. Biblical Perspective on Separation and Divorce

The teaching contrasts modern societal views on marriage with biblical standards.

- **The Splinter Analogy:** Ending a marriage over minor conflicts is compared to amputating an entire leg to remove a splinter, rather than taking the time to extract the splinter. Marriage requires effort and work.
- **Command vs. Concession:** Addressing Matthew 19:6 and Mark 10:9, Jesus stated:

“Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.”

- **Hardness of Heart:** When challenged on why Moses permitted divorce certificates (Matthew 19:8; Mark 10:5), Jesus clarified that Moses permitted it due to human hardness of heart, but "from the beginning it was not so." Moses allowed a concession; God never commanded divorce.

3. Sexual Purity, Modesty, and the Heart

God holds the marriage covenant in high regard and guards it against defilement.

- **Old Testament Law:** The Seventh Commandment explicitly forbids adultery:

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14) Under Old Testament law, the penalty for committing adultery was death (Leviticus 20:10), while fornication carried the penalty of scourging.

- **Sins of the Heart:** The Tenth Commandment prohibits coveting a neighbor's spouse (Exodus 20:17). Jesus emphasized that engaging in lustful thoughts constitutes committing sin within the heart.
- **Modesty and Altars:** Citing Exodus 20:26, the speaker explained that God commanded His altars to be built on flat ground without steps:

“Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.” This command was given so worshippers would remain modest and covered, avoiding any temptation or improper exposure.

- **Prohibition of Polygamy:** Biblical law explicitly prohibits polygamy (Leviticus 18:18), restricting marriage strictly to a one-to-one covenant.

Church Community and Service Summary

Ministry Updates and Announcements

- **Children’s Sign Language Instruction:** Pamela presented a lesson on how the children in New Life Kids are learning sign language. She taught the congregation the sign for "Hallelujah" (gently clapping hands, bending fingers, and rotating them upward toward heaven three times).

- **Missions Sending:** The church held a special prayer session for team members John Coesr and Gailyn, who are traveling with Lighthouse Medical Missions to Dakar, Senegal. The region is over 90% Muslim, and prayers were offered for their safety, witness, and success.

Greek Terms Reference

The following table details the Greek vocabulary referenced during the sermon's analysis of biblical passages on divorce and separation.

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Chōrizō (χωρίζω)[^1]	kho-ree'-zo	To separate, divide, put asunder, or cut off; biblically used to denote divorce or marital separation.

[^1]: Referenced in the sermon's exposition of Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9, and 1 Corinthians 7 regarding the prohibition against separating what God has joined together.