Study Guide-Matthew Lesson 88-Sermon on the Mount: Divorce & Remarriage

Sunday AM-November 1, 2026

Introduction

This study guide reviews the sermon on Matthew 5:31–32 from the Sermon on the Mount series. The lesson examines the teachings of Jesus Christ regarding divorce, remarriage, and God's original plan for marriage. During the sermon, the pastor contrasts the legalistic traditions of the scribes and Pharisees with the righteous standard set by God. While human civil laws permitted divorce due to the hardness of human hearts, God never commanded or approved of divorce.

The lesson also explores Old Testament passages, including Deuteronomy 24:1–4, and highlights how forgiving a spouse—as seen in the story of Hosea and Gomer—reflects the redemptive love of Jesus Christ. Additionally, the study guide touches upon opening church updates, worship scripture, and upcoming events within the church community.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. What details were shared during the church announcements regarding Pastor Appreciation and the recent Harvest Fest event?
2. How does Colossians 2:14 describe the victory that God accomplished for believers through Jesus Christ?
3. What did the scribes and Pharisees wrongly teach their followers concerning certificates of divorce?
4. According to Matthew 5:31–32, what warning does Jesus Christ give about divorcing a spouse for reasons other than sexual immorality?
5. How does the Old Testament account of Hosea and Gomer illustrate God's heart toward broken marriages?
6. What is the key difference between the civil allowance for divorce in the Old Testament law and God's original ideal established in Genesis?
7. How was the sin of adultery originally punished under Old Testament law, and how did Judeaic society alter this practice over time?
8. What do the parallel passages of Mark 10:11 and Luke 16:18 state about divorce and remarriage?
9. What comforting message did Jesus Christ give to the woman caught in adultery, and how does it apply to believers today?
10. What future topic did the pastor preview for the upcoming lesson, and what unique fact did he share about it regarding God?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The congregation expressed gratitude for Pastor Appreciation, and the church celebrated a successful Harvest Fest. Over sixty children attended the Wednesday night event, including fifty-five church children and around ten to twelve kids from the local community.
2. Colossians 2:14 explains that God wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, taking it away by nailing it to the cross. Through Jesus Christ, God disarmed principalities and powers, triumphing over them and providing victory to His people.
3. The scribes and Pharisees taught that a man could divorce his wife for almost any minor offense, such as burning food or being obnoxious, as long as he gave her a written certificate. They mistakenly believed that issuing this document made their divorces righteous before God.
4. Jesus Christ declared that anyone who divorces his wife for any cause other than sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery when she remarries. He explained that indiscriminate divorce spreads adultery throughout the community and makes both parties and their new spouses guilty of sin.
5. The story of Hosea and Gomer shows that God desires forgiveness and restoration rather than divorce. Instead of divorcing his unfaithful wife, Hosea forgave and redeemed her, demonstrating a picture of how Jesus Christ forgives and redeems His Church.
6. Old Testament civil law permitted divorce as a concession to sinful human nature, but it was never God's command or endorsement. God's original ideal in Genesis established that marriage joins two people into one flesh permanently, which no human should break apart.
7. Under original Old Testament law, the penalty for committing adultery was execution by death. As society drifted from God's standards, execution was replaced by written certificates of divorce, which eventually led to widespread, unjustified divorces.
8. Mark 10:11 and Luke 16:18 state plainly that whoever divorces his spouse and marries another commits adultery. Unlike Matthew 5:32, neither of these two passages contains an exception clause for sexual immorality.
9. Jesus Christ extended grace to the woman caught in adultery by telling her to "go and sin no more." This message assures believers that God offers full forgiveness, healing, and restoration to anyone who seeks Him.

10. The pastor announced that the next sermon will focus on the biblical teaching regarding oaths. He noted that when God takes an oath, He can only swear by Himself because there is no higher authority than Him.

Essay Format Questions

1. Compare and contrast the Pharisaic interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1–4 with the true spiritual meaning presented by Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:31–32.
2. Explain the distinction between human civil laws and God's divine ideals, drawing upon the sermon's discussion of murder, adultery, and marriage.
3. Describe how the Old Testament narrative of Hosea and Gomer serves as a model of redemptive love and forgiveness for modern relationships.
4. Analyze why Jesus Christ taught that unjustified divorce causes a cascading cycle of adultery within a community.
5. Discuss the message of hope and restoration provided in the sermon for individuals who have experienced the pain of divorce in their past.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adultery:** Marital unfaithfulness or sexual relations outside of marriage, which violates God's sacred covenant of marriage.
- **Certificate of Divorce:** A formal written legal document under Jewish law given by a husband to his wife to dissolve their marriage covenant.
- **Concession:** A temporary allowance granted in civil law due to human weakness or sinfulness, which falls short of God's perfect plan.
- **Fornication / Sexual Immorality:** Any unlawful sexual activity outside of the boundaries defined by God's Word.
- **Ideal:** God's perfect, original standard and design for human behavior and institutions, as established at Creation.
- **Indissolubility:** The quality of being permanent and incapable of being broken or dissolved, describing God's intent for marriage.
- **Pharisees:** A religious group of Jewish leaders in biblical times who strictly followed external traditional laws but often neglected the heart and intent of God's Word.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back, forgiving, or restoring someone from sin, accomplished fully through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

- **Scribes:** Experts in Jewish law who copied, interpreted, and taught Scripture, often aligning with Pharisaic traditions.
- **Self-Righteousness:** The false belief that one is morally superior or sinless based on external adherence to rules rather than genuine heart obedience to God.

Greek Words Reference

During the sermon commentary on Matthew 19 and the indissolubility of marriage, reference was made to the Greek verb translated as "put asunder" or separate.[^1]

- **Greek Word:** Chorizo (χωρίζω) [spoken phonetically in the lesson transcript as chiso]
- **Phonetic Pronunciation:** khaw-RID-zoh
- **Definition:** To separate, divide, sever, or put asunder. In the context of marriage in the New Testament, it refers to human attempts to divide or separate what God Himself has joined together into one flesh.

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[^1]: The transcript notes the pastor's oral reference to the Greek term for "put asunder" (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9), emphasizing that what God has joined together, no man should separate (chorizo).