

**December 18, 2011 ~ Louis Brenton
Adultery and Divorce**

Main Text: Matthew 5:31-32

Preliminary concerns:

-- There are only 4 possible takes on the biblical data regarding divorce:

- ◆ Divorce & remarriage are permissible under any circumstance
- ◆ Divorce & remarriage are permissible under certain circumstances
- ◆ Divorce is permissible under certain circumstances but remarriage is not
- ◆ Neither divorce or remarriage are permissible

-- There were two Pharisaic schools with opposing stances on this issue:

- ◆ The school of Hillel understood Deuteronomy 24 to refer to anything unappealing
- ◆ The school of Shammai understood Deuteronomy 24 to refer to sexual sin

1. In this passage, Jesus is correcting a misappropriation of the Deuteronomy 24 text. v. 31

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

-- The school of Hillel taught the principles of Deut. 24 as commands for divorce proceedings

Matthew 19:2-9

-- Jesus wanted his hearers to draw the right lessons from Deut. 24 & to understand its full implications

2. Jesus said that low standards regarding divorce lead people into multiplying sin v. 32

"Our Lord would never have tolerated the wicked laws of certain of the American States, which allow married men & women to separate on the merest pretext."—Charles Spurgeon, 1893

-- We can't think properly about divorce if we don't think properly about marriage

Matthew 19:4-8

Malachi 2:13-16

-- A man who wrongfully divorces his wife begins a chain of adultery

-- Jesus says that only one ground for divorce does not lead to adultery

1 Corinthians 7:12-15

Ephesians 5:22-33