

Re-Radicalized

Devotional on the Sermon on the Mount

Week 6

Day 28

Praise (Reflect on what you're grateful for from DAY 27 with the Lord)

Read the text: Matthew 5:31-32 (Jot down words that you want to reflect on)

- “The Greek word, *porneia*, from which we get our word, pornography, is a more comprehensive word than the word for adultery. The meaning of *porneia* involves sexual immorality, including fornication, uncleanness, adultery, indecency, misconduct, indiscretion or unfaithfulness.” (Teaching On Divorce, by Rudy Gray, February 21, 2014) (See also, Jeremiah 3:1; Amos 7:17; Matthew 19:9)
- In Deuteronomy 24:1, if a husband, for example, found another woman he liked better, his wife put too much salt on his dinner meal, or even if he thought his wife was “obnoxious,” it was interpreted that he was “commanded” to divorce her. In other words, the Scribes and Pharisees had turned verse 1 into a command. Jews, even in Jesus’ day, believed that Moses commanded it. Not true. He only allowed divorce as a concession for man’s continual sinfulness. The same goes with Jesus, Paul and others, who hated divorce.
- In the Old Testament God was making it clear that, as Jesus was in Matthew, divorce lead to adultery in almost all situations, which would have resulted in a death penalty. However, for example, when the Romans did not allow the death penalty, divorce became the only option at that point. Our Lord really wanted a better option and that would be to forgive and reconcile with the guilty partner as we see in Hosea 3.

Ask questions & interpret the context:

- If you have been around divorce in some way, what kind of impression has it left on you?
- What do you believe is God’s take on divorce?
- Read Romans 8:38-39. Even though God does not condone or will it, do you believe that these verses cover divorce?

Summarize: Now take a moment to go back and pour over your observations as well as your responses to the questions.

Engage with God: Bring your thoughts, questions, and desire for change to the Lord for his forgiveness, wisdom, correction, guidance, and direction.

Extra Questions To Consider

1. What is the Lord saying to your personally?
2. What do you need to pray about?
3. With whom does the Lord want you to share this devotional?
4. Who has the Lord placed on your heart to pray for and invite to church?

Digging Deeper

- Again, let’s be reminded of the Lord’s forgiveness: Memorize 1 John 1:9.
- Regarding the guilty partner, come to an understanding of our lord’s message in these 2 verses about divorce, that except for *porneia*, it’s as much an internal sin (of the heart and being responsible, not only for yourself, but also for others committing adultery through remarriage, v.32, also Luke 16:18) as it is an external sin (physical divorce).
- How can you be an encouragement to a friend or loved one who is a victim of adultery or divorced by someone who doesn’t want to be married anymore (1 Corinthians 7:1-13)?
- How can you be an encouragement to a friend or loved one who is experiencing a divorce outside of God’s allowance for divorce? (Consider Ephesians 1:7; 4:22-24; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 3:19)