

Compassion and clarity on divorce

Dominic Steele, Matthew 5:31-32

Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5:31-32

³¹It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19:1-9

³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" ⁴"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?' ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." ⁷"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" ⁸Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

¹ If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, ² and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, ³ and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, ⁴ then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

1 Compassion and Clarity

2 Moses teaching Matthew 5:31, Deuteronomy 24:1-4

3 Sermon on the Mount 'Heart Surgery'

4 Jesus teaching

- a don't divorce, except for unfaithfulness Matthew 5:32
- b positive first principle: no longer two but one Matthew 19:4-5
- c clarity: "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel' Malachi 2:16

5 Compassion and Clarity

- a married
- b not yet married
- c divorced

6 Heart Surgery

