

# WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Scripture Reference Notes – February 24, 2026

Week 5: True Righteousness (Pt 2) – Divorce and Oaths

Review (Matthew)

Chapter 1 Genealogy

Chapter 2 King of the Jews

Chapter 3 Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Chapter 4 Jesus preaches the gospel of the kingdom

Chapter 5 Kingdom life

Lesson 2 Beatitudes

Lesson 3 Law- not to abolish, but to fulfill

Lesson 4 Anger, Lust

Lesson 5 Divorce, Oaths

### Divorce

Matthew 5:31-32

“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

What does Jesus want us to know about divorce in this context?

Marriage is a picture of God’s relationship with the nation of Israel (and with the Church)?

Become one flesh

Jeremiah 31:31-33 New Covenant

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Greek

Divorce- *apoluo* - release, dismiss, send away, the release of an existing bond

Certificate of divorce - *apostasion*- formal document by which a man divorced his wife

Pharisees testing Jesus on divorce “for any reason?”

Matthew 19:3-9

<sup>3</sup>The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”

<sup>4</sup>And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup>and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup>So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

<sup>7</sup>They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”

<sup>8</sup>He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup>And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s *wife*, *if* the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, *then* her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that *is* an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you *as* an inheritance.”

Matthew 1:18-25

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Greek and Roman cultures - divorce was common

John 4: 5-42 The Woman at the Well

## Oaths

Matthew 5: 33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

Leviticus 19:12

“And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD.”

Numbers 30:1-2

“Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, “This *is* the thing which the LORD has commanded: If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

Two supposed classes of swearing - binding and non-binding

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

“When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.”

Matthew 5:37

“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

Yes nai certainly, assuredly, even so, strong affirmation, emphatic assertion

No ou absolute negative, nay, by no means

“The worse men are, the less they are bound by oaths. The better they are the less need there is for them.” Matthew Henry

Are oaths forbidden?

Quakers

Jesus put under oath

Matthew 26: 62-64

“And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?” But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus said to him, “*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Paul called on God as Witness

Romans 1:9; Galatians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 1:23

### **Additional Resources:**

<https://fbcva.org>

- Click on Watch and Listen
- Click on Podcast
- Scroll down to “A Trap That Was Not – Part 38”

<https://fbcva.org>

- Click on Watch & Listen
- Click on CLASS & SEMINAR RECORDINGS
- Select SCRIPTURE
- Under SEARCH type in Matthew 5
- Look for The Coming Kingdom of God, Matthew 5 (Weeks 8 & 9 – 10.30.22 & 11.6.22)

*Next Week – March 3  
Week 6 – True Righteousness (Pt 3) – Retaliation and Love*