

# What Jesus Says About Divorce

*Matthew 5:31–32*

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

## EPISODE SUMMARY

A dedicated episode on the divorce passage in Matthew 5:31–32 — the verses Jesus gave to a generation that had quietly turned the Mosaic certificate of divorce into a permission slip. We back up to Genesis 2 to recover the floor under everything Jesus is about to say, then walk phrase by phrase through what he is actually correcting and what he is asking us to hold. The episode lands on a single question for the listener: which hand are you tempted to drop?

## KEY THEMES

- The Genesis foundation under every divorce conversation — leaving, bonding, becoming one.
- The Mosaic certificate of divorce as guardrail, never a green light.
- The exception clause handled with sobriety in both directions: not a loophole, not a weapon.
- Covenant-breaking as a sin with downstream casualties — it ripples.
- Two hands held together: the seriousness of the covenant and the mercy of the kingdom.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*"It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce. But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."*

— Matthew 5:31–32, CSB

## TAKEAWAY TRUTH

Jesus is not picking up one rope and dropping another. He is holding the seriousness of the covenant and the mercy of the kingdom in the same two hands. We have failed across history by dropping one or the other. We don't have to.

## APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Which hand are you tempted to drop? If you minimize the seriousness, pick up the covenant hand again — take what God has joined together more seriously than you have been. If you weaponize against the wounded, pick up the mercy hand again — remember that he ate with sinners, came for the broken, and came for you once, too.

## SERIES FOCUS

*The Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5 · CT058–CT069*