

Trinity Bible Church
February 15, 2012
Lesson 31

Dispensational Transitions

- I. From the Dispersion into Babylon to the close of the Old Testament
- II. Between the Testaments.
- III. The New Testament World.
 10. The Sermon on the Mount.
 - L. Choosing The Twelve. Matt 10:2-4;12:15b-21;Mark 3:7b-19b
 - M. Teaching on the Mountain. Matt 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-26
 - N. Salt Of The Earth. Matthew 5:13-20
 - O. Six Contrasts In Interpreting The Law. Matt 5:21-37
 1. Murder and Anger.
 2. Adultery and Lust.
 3. Divorce And Its Consequences.

Matt 5:31 = The Law Of Divorce.

L.T./E.T. = "And it was said, 'Whoever send his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce;

This is a reference to Deut 24:1-4.

Principle: There are legal as well as moral implications to divorce.

Matt 5:32 = Jesus Interprets The Law.

L.T./E.T. = but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for a *proven* word of fornication, is making her be adulterated, and whoever may marry one having been divorced is being adulterated.

Jesus' point: Men should love their wife.

Summary:

1. Uses of the word "loosed from" or "divorce."
 - A. One can be "loosed from" a financial debt. Matt 18:27
 - B. One can be "loosed from" a civil debt. Luke 6:37
 - C. One can be "loosed from" a criminal debt. Matt 27:15
 - D. One can be "loosed from" life itself. Luke 2:29-30
2. Divorce is being "loosed from" one's lawful spouse.
3. In the ancient world, "divorce" was necessary after becoming engaged.
4. The Pharisees had turned marriage into a master-slave relationship, driven by law, rather than a love relationship led by God. Matt 19:3-10
5. It is commonly thought that *only* when sexual infidelity (fornication) is involved is it not sinful to divorce a spouse. Mark 10:11-12

- Innocent husband divorces adulterous wife stays innocent.
 - Innocent husband divorces innocent wife becomes guilty.
 - Adulterous husband divorces adulterous wife is already guilty.
 - Adulterous husband divorces innocent wife is already guilty.
 - Innocent wife divorces adulterous husband stays innocent.
 - Innocent wife divorces innocent husband becomes guilty.
 - Adulterous wife divorces innocent husband is already guilty.
 - Adulterous wife divorces adulterous husband is already guilty.
6. Scripture warns us over and over again to avoid "fornication." Acts 15:20; 1 Cor 6:18
 - A. God designed our bodies to be used by the Lord, not to be used immorally. 1 Cor 6:13
 - B. All sexual activities are reserved for our spouse. 1 Cor 7:2
 - C. Fornication is a work of the flesh. Gal 5:19
 - D. Fornication is not to be the witness of the church. Eph 5:3
 - E. Morality is part of our Phase Two sanctification. 1Thes 4:3
 7. Fornication is normally viewed as one of the most offensive of sins so when Jesus was accused of being the product of unlawful sex, it was a venomous attack on His character. John 8:41
 8. The word "fornication" has a wide range of applications and actually means to exchange something valuable for something that is not.
 - A. It is first a matter of the heart. Matt 15:19
 - B. It can be a matter of improper sexual relationships. 1 Cor 5:1
 - C. It can be religious. Rev 2:20-21
 - D. It can be political or financial. Rev 18:3
 - E. Spiritual fornication, namely "following other gods," was legal grounds for divorce. Mal 2:10-16
 - F. Physical fornication is an outward manifestation of an already present spiritual problem.
 9. Thus, divorce could "legally" occur for reasons other than sexual.
 10. Should believers be led by the spirit of the law or the letter? Cf 2 Cor 3:6
 11. Where immorality exists, full repentance needs to occur. 2 Cor 12:21
 12. Immorality is fought by considering one's body as dead to it. Col 3:5-7
 13. Immorality is forgivable. Jer 3:6-14

Principle: Let the marriage bed be undefiled. Heb 13:4

Principle: Let the heart be cleansed from evil thoughts. Mark 7:21-22

Principle: Let not law be twisted to justify personal flaws. Pharisees

Principle: Do not seek to change one's marital status but instead seek to serve the Lord within one's personal circumstances. 1 Cor 7:25-35

Principle: Realize that godly attitudes are more important than rules used to justify personal actions, even when justified.