



Part 5: Jesus Wants Divorced Disciples

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June 1 & 2, 2013

*"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."
- Matthew 5:31-32, ESV*

The Context: The kingdom of God is open to royally broken people

The Standard for Your Marriage: Don't separate what God joins

'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." - Matthew 19:5-6

The Standard for Your Mouth: Simple truth

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." - Matthew 5:33-37

The Call: Jesus wants divorced disciples

If Jesus were alive today, would he call a divorcee to be a disciple? YES! Just look at a few of the scoundrels who were his most devoted followers:

- **Matthew:** A tax collector and traitor to the Jewish people
- **Simon the Zealot:** A rebel against the Roman government
- **Paul:** A persecutor of the early Church

There is Always a Place for You...

- In the kingdom of Christ (the King)
- At Christ the King Community Church

Getting Practical:

- **Pre-married people:** Love Jesus first and foremost, even more than your date!
- **Strong Marriages:** Consider being marriage mentors
- **Struggling Marriages:** Seek God's kingdom first in your life, find marriage mentors
- **Divorcees:** Get healthy enough and get back serving in the kingdom. Jesus wants YOU as a disciple.

Next Steps

- Register for the Gary Thomas Marriage Workshop on June 22nd at CTK Bellingham: see more information at ctkbellingham.com/marriage
- Become marriage mentors or receive marriage mentoring. See ctkbellingham.com/marriage for more information
- There is always a place for you at CTK. Get in the game and begin to serve! Find opportunities at ctkbellingham.com/serve
- Read "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis (again if necessary!)

Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you think Jesus' view of divorce and oaths is outdated or still important for us today?
- 2) What are some of the costs of divorce that you've seen in your own life or among friends and family?
- 3) How have you seen God restore people who have been through divorce?
- 4) What are some action steps you can take today to strengthen your marriage or the marriages of others around you?
- 5) What are the areas of your life where you need God to rule and reign more in your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.