

The Sermon on the Mount: When 'Til Death Do Us Part' Falls Apart

Matthew 5:27-32

📖 Matthew 5:27–32 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But 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.”

Marriage can be [hard](#), but [it's worth it](#).

📖 Matthew 5:27–30 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

Guardrails

1. Make a commitment to [God's standard of morality](#).

📖 Psalm 119:9 (NIV) “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.”

📖 Job 31:1 (NIV) “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.”

2. Model [Jesus in your marriage](#).

📖 Ephesians 5:21–22 (NIV) “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.”

📖 Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

3. Maintain [proper relationships](#).

📖 1 Timothy 5:1–2 (NIV) “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers,² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

4. Manage your [mind](#).

📖 Romans 12:1–2a (NIV) “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

📖 Romans 13:14 (NIV) “...do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

5. Monitor your [media intake](#).

📖 Psalm 101:3a (NIV) “I will set before my eyes no vile thing.”

📖 Romans 16:19b (NIV) “...I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.”

6. Minimize opportunities [to be tempted](#).

📖 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”

📖 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) “Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

7. Magnify the [consequences](#).

📖 Proverbs 6:32 (NIV) “But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.”

📖 Proverbs 6:26 (GNB) “...adultery will cost a man all he has.”

Divorce can be easy, but it wasn't meant to be.

📖 *Matthew 5:31–32 (NIV) “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But 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.”*

📖 *Deuteronomy 24:1 (NIV) “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 the house,”*

📖 *Matthew 19:3–9 (NIV) “Some 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,’⁵ and 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?’⁶ So 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?”⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”*

📖 *John 8:1–11 (NIV) “But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”*

- If you have a good marriage, **PRAISE** God.
- If you have a rocky marriage, **SEEK** God.
- If you’ve had a divorce, **RECONCILE** with God.

Digging Deeper—If you are married or in a relationship, what are you doing to strengthen it? Whose marriage do you most admire and why? Describe a time when you felt judged. Describe a time when you were surprised by love. What is God asking you to do today?

