

Prayer Concerns:**Built to Last**

Matthew 5:31-32 [Page 1502]

Two rival reasons for divorce:

1. *Rabbi Shammai*: Only for marital _____
2. *Rabbi Hillel*: For _____ cause _____

Jesus' teaching on divorce:

1. The Pharisees were preoccupied with the grounds for divorce;
Jesus with the _____ of _____

*Marriage is a divine institution by which God _____
makes two people _____* [Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:6]

2. The Pharisees called Moses' provision a command; Jesus called it
a _____ to the _____ of human hearts.

A hard heart is _____ to one's _____ and _____

3. The Pharisees regarded divorce lightly; Jesus took it so seriously
that He allowed it with _____

How Jesus dealt with adulterers. [John 4:1-26; 8:1-11]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Describe the ideal marriage.

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 5:31-32 and 19:1-9

1. Rabbis Shammai and Hillel held very different views on the grounds for divorce. Which side is our culture on?
2. When teaching on marriage, Jesus goes back to Genesis. Read Genesis 2:18-25 and Matthew 19:4-6. What does this teach us about God's original design for marriage?
3. The Pharisees refer to Moses' instructions about divorce as a "command" [7]. What does Jesus' reply teach us about divorce [8]?

4. What does it mean to have a hard heart [Proverbs 28:13-14; Ephesians 4:18]? What hope is there for those with hardened hearts [Ezekiel 36:26; Psalm 51:10]?
5. How does Jesus' teaching contrast with today's views you and your peers may have concerning marriage and divorce?
6. Does marital unfaithfulness mean the end of a marriage? How have you seen God bring reconciliation and forgiveness among those you know?

Taking it Home:

1. If you are married, review the vows you have made with your spouse. Have you been faithful in keeping all of these promises?