



Pastor Scott Velain

Matthew Chapter 19

Yeshua Continues To Teach Torah

During our study this morning we're going to be taking a look at a highly controversial teaching that our Messiah left us with that was undoubtedly a hot topic back in the days of our Messiah but is also a very hot topic today in our modern-day culture and society.

Often times when we read through these red-letter teachings that come directly from our Messiah, we find things that make us somewhat uncomfortable. And the reason that they make us uncomfortable is because we know that we have all been forced to deal with these topics and these issues and these dilemmas and situations throughout our very own lives. And these teachings can make us wonder if we've made the right decisions in the right choices or whether or not we have done the right thing in the past.

And because of this, we often times see people who have made wrong decisions in the past because either they were taught wrongly, or because they simply did not know... attempting to justify their past bad decisions by twisting the Scriptures and doing all kinds of theological gymnastic in order to justify the poor decisions that they have made.

What I'm trying to say here is that no one likes to think that they were wrong. And far less will ever truly admit that they were wrong. That in of itself is also part of human nature.

But I would submit to you that when we correctly understand the teachings of our Messiah and we realize that we were wrong about something that we have done in the past, it's tectonically important to admit that wrongdoing and to stand corrected. And I would also like to add that there is nothing wrong with admitting a wrongdoing and standing corrected. In fact... admitting that we are guilty of wrongdoing and standing corrected is exactly what our Messiah calls us all to do. And so, I'd like us to just idle here for a moment before we begin our study this morning and think about the importance of admitting our guilt when we are guilty, and standing corrected when we need to stand corrected.

The whole premise of our Messiah coming was so that we would be given a chance to admit our wrongdoing and to stand corrected. You see, that's called repentance.

The quintessential definition of repentance is the admission of our transgressions and then standing corrected. Repentance is not turning away from our transgression when it's convenient and then returning like a dog to its vomit when it's not. Repentance is about standing corrected. It's about realizing our guilt. And it's essentially about turning away from that transgression and being careful not to repeat it now that we know that it is transgression.

It always amazes me how we as human beings have this innate sense of denial when it comes to our guilt. No one wants to admit guilt. It's not fun admitting guilt. It's not comfortable to admit guilt. Admitting guilt feels awkward and often times somewhat humiliating and we don't like it. But I would submit to you that admitting guilt is exactly what a true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christian is called to do. In fact... I might go so far as to say... that if we are incapable of admitting guilt and standing corrected... we will never make it into our Father's kingdom. And I like to repeat that one more time just to make sure that this biblical fact sets in and is embedded within our very being. If we are incapable of admitting guilt and standing corrected, we will

never enter our Father's kingdom.

It is written that all have sinned, all have transgressed his law, his spoken word, his Torah. And we must realize that the very reason that our Messiah raised up the descendent of David... was to save us from that transgression. The transgressions... the sins that we have committed that have caused us to be cursed with the penalty of death is exactly why our Messiah was brought into the world in the first place.

And I say all of that to say this... admitting our guilt and standing corrected should never be something that we shy away from. Admitting our guilt and standing corrected should never be something that we are afraid of. What causes us to fear admitting our guilt and standing corrected? Think about that for just a moment. What is it that causes us to not want to admit our guilt and to stand corrected?

The answer to that question is clearly... narcissism and vanity. Have we ever talked about narcissism and vanity before? If you ever heard that in any of our teachings? Have you ever heard that in any of our Messiah's teachings? I tell you the truth, the root of all evil stems from narcissism and vanity. It stems from us wanting to believe that we are better than we truly are. It stems from us wanting others to believe... that we are better than we truly are. The last thing that we want is for someone else to know how sinful and how full of mistakes that we truly are, or how imperfect that we really are. And it is our narcissism and our vanity that often times causes us to fight against what is good and righteous and just.

But admitting our guilt and standing corrected is exactly what our Messiah calls us all back to. Because without the ability to admit our guilt, to know our sins and our transgressions, to recognize them, and to stand corrected... we will never truly learn the difference between good and evil. We will never truly be able to clarify and to distinguish righteousness from unrighteousness.

The teachings of our Messiah are true and correct. The word that he spoke was not his own but was indeed his Father's word who brought him into the world for his good purpose. And that good purpose was to shine a light so that we could see. No one can see in the dark. When we are walking in the dark we stumble, we bumble, we trip, and we fall. But when the light is turned on... there is far less stumbling and bumbling and tripping and falling because we then can see. And this is exactly why our Messiah is called the light of the world. And this is exactly why he calls us to also share that light that he has given us with the rest of the world.

All of us, each and every one is literally a prodigal son. Each and every one of us have just lost our way. Each and every one of us has run away from home. Each and every one of us has had to learn the hard way. Each and every one of us has woken up in a den of pigs. And each and every one of us has been called to return back home to our Father.

Admitting our guilt and standing corrected is something that we should be excited to do not ashamed to do.

Being saved means that you have been given the ability to identify your transgression and you have made the conscious decision to turn away from it and not to turn back to it. And this repentance... this turning away from our transgression then requires obedience in order to keep us from going back to our transgression.

What is it that Peter tells us in Acts chapter 2 verse 38? Peter tells us to repent and be baptized every one of us. The very idea of baptism... the very concept of baptism is that we go down into the watery grave of baptism following our Messiah down into the grave only to be resurrected a new creature putting off the perishable and putting on the imperishable.

But we cannot get there without having the ability to admit our guilt and to stand corrected. The quintessential definition of repentance is first the

ability to recognize and admit our transgression and then to stand corrected and to stay corrected through our obedience and our subordination to not only our King... but also to our Father in heaven. This is what our God appointed King has come to teach us. This is the quintessential definition of being... "Saved".

Keeping all of this in mind... let's now move forward and read Matthew chapter 19 so that we can know exactly what it says and just as importantly what it does not say. **Matthew chapter 19 E1**

Teaching About Divorce

Mat 19:1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

Mat 19:2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Mat 19:3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

Mat 19:4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

Mat 19:5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

Mat 19:6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mat 19:7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"

Mat 19:8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

Mat 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for **sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits **adultery**."

Mat 19:10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

Mat 19:11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.

Mat 19:12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Let the Children Come to Me

Mat 19:13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people,

Mat 19:14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Mat 19:15 And he laid his hands on them and went away.

The Rich Young Man

Mat 19:16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

Mat 19:18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

Mat 19:19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mat 19:20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

Mat 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Mat 19:22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

Mat 19:25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

Mat 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mat 19:27 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

Mat 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Mat 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

The more we read the red-letter words of our Messiah and his personal teachings the more in tune with our Father in heaven we become. And this is exactly why I personally gravitate to the red-letter words of the New Testament more than I gravitate to anything else in the New Testament. If we know and we understand the teachings of our Messiah, then we will know and understand the teachings of his apostles. We simply cannot put the teachings of the apostles before the teachings of our Messiah. Because if we do not properly know and understand the teachings of our Messiah... then we will only be guessing about what his apostles are trying to tell us.

We must always remember that the apostles were students of our Messiah. Our Messiah was not a student of the apostles. And unfortunately, many of today's modern day Christian denominational empires have wrongly put the proverbial horse before the cart. Many modern-day denominational empires have put the apostle Paul before our Messiah. And it is because they do not understand the teachings of our Messiah... that they do not understand the teachings of the apostle Paul. The only begotten Son of God was not the apostle Paul. The only begotten Son of God was Yeshua and we need to always know and understand that if we are ever going to be able to understand the true contents... the true message... the true gospel found within the confines of what we know today as the new testament... we must first understand the teaching of our own Messiah and King before we ever even attempt to understand teachings of his students.

Keeping this in mind what does our Messiah teach about divorce?

Undoubtedly the very topic of divorce is indeed a hot topic for us today because we live in a culture and in a society much like the culture and the society of our Messiah's time. A culture and a society that seems to believe that it can change and switch out sexual partners any time we please. A culture and a society that has bought into debauchery and pornography and fornication and covetousness which is all part and

parcel of idolatry.

Think about it. What is idolatry? Idolatry is putting something or someone else before God. This is the quintessential definition of “idolatry”. Why did our Father in heaven say that the house of Israel played the whore? How did the house of Israel play the whore? Was it by having physical sexual relations with a pagan god? Is that what “playing the whore” means here in the text? Does playing the whore have anything at all to do with physical sex? Or does playing the whore have everything to do with the spiritual worship and adoration of idols and idolatry?

Are there two different meanings that need to be understood when the Bible speaks about fornication? I would submit to you that there are two different meanings and there are two different definitions of the word fornication but... both of these definitions have to do with sin and transgression. One definition of fornication and adultery is physical. And the other definition of fornication and adultery is spiritual. And it's imperative that we understand both definitions of fornication and what it means to and I quote, “play the whore”. I'd like us to turn to **Hosea chapter 4 verses 15 through 19 this morning E2**

Hos 4:15 Though you play the whore, O Israel, let not Judah become guilty. Enter not into Gilgal, nor go up to Beth-aven, and swear not, “As the LORD lives.”

Hos 4:16 Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the LORD now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?

Hos 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.

Hos 4:18 When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; their rulers dearly love shame.

Hos 4:19 A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Here in the book of Hosea chapter 4 our Father in heaven tells us that Ephraim (also known as Israel) has and I quote “played the whore” in verse 15. And in verse 17 Hosea tells us that Ephraim was joined to

idols. And in verse 19 we are told that they are ashamed because of their sacrifices. And I want to stop right here for just a moment so that we can understand what it is that we are reading here. Is Hosea saying that Ephraim physically had sex with a pagan god? Or is Hosea saying here that Ephraim is worshiping other idols? Does the word “whore” or “harlot” that we see in the King James version of our English translated Bibles... have anything to do with physical sex here? Because I would submit to you... that it does not.

Playing the whore or playing the harlot has a much greater meaning here in the Hebrew language. The English word “whore” or “harlot” comes from **the Hebrew word “Zanah” (scrn 1)**

Harlot / Whore = H2181

Harlot = *zânâh* זנה

BDB Definition:

- 1) to commit fornication, be a harlot, play the harlot
 - 1a) (Qal)
 - 1a1) to be a harlot, act as a harlot, commit fornication
 - 1a2) to commit adultery
 - 1a3) to be a cult prostitute
 - 1a4) to be unfaithful (to God) (figuratively)
 - 1b) (Pual) to play the harlot
 - 1c) (Hiphil)
 - 1c1) to cause to commit adultery
 - 1c2) to force into prostitution

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And once again if we look closely at Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions, we can see that this word “zanah” does indeed have a twofold meaning. In other words, the word “zanah” has two different definitions. When the Old Testament talks about playing the whore or playing the harlot, it can mean two different things. One is of a sexual nature... a physical nature if you will... and the other definition is of a

spiritual nature or figuratively speaking. And it's extremely important for us to understand these two different definitions in the Old Testament if we are going to properly understand our Messiah's teachings in the New Testament.

And so, to make a long story short, when it is said that Israel was guilty of playing the whore or playing the harlot, it does not always mean that Israel was involved in physical sexual promiscuity. It most often meant that the house of Israel was betraying her love for God by worshiping other idols and other gods.

The question is do we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear the two very different definitions of whoredom or harlotry presented to us here in the Old Testament? Whoredom or harlotry have two different definitions that are clearly defined within the Old Testament. One is of a physical nature and the other definition is of a spiritual nature. But both of them are extremely closely related.

Think about it this way... if a man has a physical sexual relationship with a woman he is mixing and mingling himself with her physically. And according to the Bible this makes the man and the woman one flesh.

And by the same token, if we say that we love and are obedient to our Father in heaven who created us... we are essentially becoming one with him. We are becoming one with our Messiah and one with our Father in heaven and one with each other. Just like the man and the woman become one flesh so to do we all become one with our Father in heaven.

Once a man makes a commitment to a woman and he has a physical sexual relationship with her, and they become one flesh it becomes a sin for a man to have a physical sexual relationship outside of that marriage with another woman. This is called adultery. And by the same token... once we have made a commitment to our Father in heaven and have become one with him... and then we decide to go worship something

else or someone else other than him... we are also guilty of spiritual adultery.

It would be fair to say that adultery is equal to idolatry in the spiritual. When Hosea tells us that the house of Israel played the whore, he is revealing to us that the house of Israel began to worship other idols. And this is an extremely important concept for us to grasp when attempting to understand what our Messiah was attempting to tell us about divorce in the New Testament. Him

Keeping all of this in mind let's now go back to Matthew chapter 19, and let's concentrate on verses one through 12. **E1**

Mat 19:1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

Mat 19:2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Mat 19:3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

Mat 19:4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

Mat 19:5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

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Mat 19:8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

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Mat 19:12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

There are some key things that we need to zero in on concerning this teaching about divorce in Matthew chapter 19. The first thing that we need to key in on is who it was that our Messiah was speaking to. Our Messiah was once again speaking to the Pharisees who were attempting to once again catch our Messiah in a trap.

It's important to understand that when the Pharisees were asking our Messiah questions... they were not asking him questions because they wanted to know the answer according to God. They were asking him these questions because they were testing him and trying to belittle him and to defraud him. We must remember that they wanted to kill him because so many people were following him and our Messiah was taking the authority of the Pharisees and the scribes away from them. And so, there was this battle going on once again between good and evil, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between a child of God and the children of the devil.

And so, we must always remember that when our Messiah spoke to the Pharisees in particular, he generally did not speak to them openly and plainly. When our Messiah spoke to the Pharisees directly he spoke in parables and riddles and rhymes. Very rarely did he speak to them plainly because when he spoke to them plainly, they rejected what he plainly said to them.

Keeping that in mind the Pharisees once again approach our Messiah and trying to trick him they asked him if it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife for every cause or for any reason. Upon which time our Messiah tells them that from the very beginning it was written that a man would leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and that the two would become one flesh.

And at that point in time, the Pharisees fire back and they ask "why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?". And our Messiah answers back and tells them that it was

because of the hardness of their hearts that Moses allowed them to divorce their wives but that this was not so from the beginning.

And I want to stop right here and think about this for just a moment. Was Moses teaching something other than what God had said? Was Yeshua teaching something other than what God had said? Was Yeshua now teaching against the Torah? Some say yes, but the wise... say no.

We must always understand that Moses did nothing against the will of Yehovah that he was not severely chastised for. If Moses would have done anything against the will of Yehovah, Yehovah would have surely chastised Moses just like he chastised Moses for striking the rock with his staff. But we never hear one instance of Yehovah chastising Moses for allowing men to divorce their wives. And so, it would be incorrect for us to assume that Moses was doing something against the will of God. And this is by no means what our Messiah was trying to tell the Pharisees. Moses allowed to the house of Israel to divorce their wives because of the hardness of their hearts in front of Yehovah God.

It's not like God did not see what Moses was doing. It's not like God did not know that Moses had allowed them to divorce their wives. Obviously if it was allowed by Moses, it was also allowed by Yehovah God. Even though this is not how Yehovah wanted things to be from the beginning, Yehovah it did indeed allow it to be so.

To say or to think that Moses was so presumptuous as to go against the will of God is to be in great error. And so, our Messiah was not teaching against the Torah nor was he teaching against Moses. He was simply explaining to the Pharisees why it was that Moses allowed them to divorce their wives.

We must understand that God is not a god of chaos. Our God is a God of peace and justice and righteousness. If there is chaos within the household, is it not better to have peace? But there cannot be peace in a household and less the people within that household have not only

become one with each other but have also become one with God. The bottom line is that it is once again narcissism and vanity that causes divorce. One... or both parties because of their narcissism and vanity cannot live together. And this causes chaos within the home. And God knows this, and Moses knew this. But what our Messiah is telling the Pharisees is that this is not the way that it was supposed to be from the beginning. You see the family unit that God created for us here on earth is a shadow picture of our relationship with our Father in heaven.

It was always the intention of Yehovah that we would love Yehovah first and because we love Yehovah first we would be obedient to Yehovah thereby putting away the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh and holding fast to what is good and right and just in the eyes of Yehovah. And it has never been Yehovah's intention that we would treat each other maliciously.

And so, we must understand why it is that both Moses and God himself allows men to divorce their wives. Our Father in heaven is not ignorant of humanity. He is not ignorant of the fact that man is right now going through a learning process. And there are all kinds of reasons why a man and a woman may not be able to live together. There are literally thousands of scenarios that we could get into that would explain why a man and a woman would not be able to live together in peace.

If a man is married to a woman and the woman falls out of the faith and decides to go worship other idols or other gods this is definitely going to cause chaos within the household. If a man falls away from the faith and he decides to go and to worship other idols or other gods this is definitely going to cause chaos within the household. And this is just one instance of what could happen between a man and a woman who have been married.

A man may have married a Catholic woman and thought that this was fine before he came to the knowledge of the truth. So, what happens when he comes to the knowledge of the truth? Now he has a pagan wife

that is worshipping an earthly pagan Pope who calls himself god on earth. If we don't think that that's going to cause chaos within the home, then we once again do not understand human nature. And let me tell you this my friends the devil is very good at causing chaos between a man and a woman. The devil hates the family unit because the family unit was created by God. And let there be no mistake about it... God hates divorce. Just because he allows it does not mean that he sanctions it. And the reason that he hates divorce is because one or the other or both parties have chosen to make themselves friends of the world and thereby enemies of God.

Divorce is an ugly thing. Our Father in heaven is never happy about a divorce. But it is because of our human nature that often times a man cannot continue to live with a woman or a woman cannot continue to live with a man who is not of the same faith. It is our faith that binds us together. It is our faith that solidifies a marriage between a man and a woman. If there is no faith, then there is no union. And our Father in heaven knows this. Our Father in heaven is not ignorant of these things. So, what else does our Messiah say?

In verse nine our Messiah says, and I quote "Whoever divorces his wife except for sexual immorality and marries another commits adultery." And once again I want to stop right here because in order to understand Matthew chapter 19 verse nine properly, we need to do a little homework.

The first thing that we need to understand is that what we are reading from here today is the English standard version of the Bible. All of us are reading English translations of the original Hebrew and Greek languages when we are reading our Bibles. We must remember that the Bible was not written in English. The Old Testament was not written in English nor was the New Testament written in English. All of these words have been translated by translators who may or may not have been anointed with the proper discernment necessary to understand the Scriptures properly.

There are all kinds of bloopers and blunders within the confines of all of our English translated Bibles including but not limited to the King James version of the Bible. I can show you 6519 major blunders within almost every English translated Bible on the market today in under 30 seconds. All we have to do is take a look at the word “Lord” in the Bible. The very name of God has been covered up over 6519 times by the English word “Lord” in our English translated Bibles because of the mistranslation of those who did not have the discernment to understand how important God’s name truly is to both God and his people.

And I say all of that just in order to provide at least one example of how our English translated Bibles can be somewhat of an obstacle when attempting to understand exactly what it was that was actually being said in either the Old Testament or the New Testament. Our Father in heaven wrote his name in his God breathed Scripture over 6519 times and we don’t even see it once in most of our English translated Bibles unless we do our homework and go back and look at a Hebrew dictionary and take the time to look up what the English word “Lord” was actually translated from in the Hebrew language.

And I would submit to you that the exact same thing is happening right here in Matthew chapter 19 verse nine. You see, our Messiah never said that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual immorality and marries another commits adultery. What our Messiah said is whoever divorces his wife except for or “fornication”... except for “fornication”... and marries another commits adultery. **(scrn 2)**


G4202

πορνεία

fornication = porneia

Thayer Definition:

- 1) illicit sexual intercourse
 - 1a) adultery, **fornication**, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.
 - 1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18
 - 1c) sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; [Mar_10:11-12](#)
- 2) **metaphorically the worship of idols**
 - 2a) **of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols**



As we can clearly see, fornication... which comes from the Greek word “porneia” has more than one meaning. It can mean sexual immorality... but... “porneia” also has a greater meaning in the spiritual, which is the worship of idols, and the defilement of idolatry.

We must remember what we just got done reading in the Old Testament about how the house of Israel whored against God. How did the house of Israel whore or against God? Once again sex had nothing to do with how the house of Israel whored against God. The house of Israel whored against God by worshiping idols and other gods. And I want to stop right here for just a moment just to be clear. Physical sex was used sometimes in worshiping other gods. Physical sexual orgies at pagan temples did take place from time to time depending on the pagan god that was being worshiped. But this was often times not the case depending on the pagan god that was being worshiped. Often times worshiping a pagan god simply require lighting candles and making sacrifices to that god at that god’s temple and no physical sex was required. And so, once again just as we see in the book of Hosea our Father in heaven relates physical sexual sin with spiritual betrayal. Because both physical sexual sin and

spiritual betrayal cause jealousy and heartbreak.

Many people believe that our Messiah told the Pharisees that whoever puts his wife away except for adultery and marries another commits adultery but that's not exactly what our Messiah says.

You see there is a very specific word for adultery in the Greek language. And we actually see this Greek word for adultery being used in Matthew chapter 19 verse nine at the end of the verse. Let's go see what the word adultery actually means in the Greek language. (scrn 3)

G3429

μοιχάω

adultery = moichaō

moy-khah'-o

From G3432; (middle voice) to *commit adultery*: - commit adultery.

Total KJV occurrences: 6

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You see the Greek word for adultery is “Moy-khah-o” (moichao) and “moy-khah-o” only has one meaning, and that is indeed “adultery”. You see unlike fornication which is the Greek word porneia... “moy-khah-o” can only mean one thing and that is adultery it can mean nothing else. But our Messiah does not use the word “moy-khah-o” or adultery. He says that whoever divorces his wife except for fornication... which is a different word than adultery... whoever divorces his wife except for **“fornication”** (which has a double meaning)... and marries another

commits adultery. And so, here's the question that I would like to present to you; why didn't our Messiah say whoever divorces his wife except for adultery and marries another commits adultery? Why didn't he use the same word, "adultery" twice in that same sentence? Why didn't he say whoever divorces his wife except for adultery... and marries another commits adultery? He does not use the word "adultery" both times in that sentence he only uses the adultery once at the end of the sentence. (scrn 4)

Wrong Interpretation:
Mat 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality (Fornication), and marries another, commits adultery.”

Verses;

Wrong Interpretation:
Mat 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for adultery, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Proper;

Right Interpretation:
Mat 19:9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for idolatry, and marries another, commits adultery.”

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So, why does he say whoever divorces his wife except for **fornication** and marries another commits adultery? And we need to stop right here again for just a moment to make the point that the English standard version of the Bible uses the term “sexual immorality” which is completely wrong. The Greek language does not say “sexual immorality” the Greek language says “fornication” (porneia). And so, this once again this just makes things more difficult to understand, but please try to keep in mind that the actual Greek word here is indeed “porneio” which means “fornication”.

And so, moving forward why does he use the word fornication instead of adultery? I would submit to you that the reason that our Messiah used the word fornication instead of adultery is because fornication can mean two different things in the Greek language. Fornication which comes from the Greek word “porneia” can mean adultery but... it can also mean “idolatry”. And this is exactly why our Messiah used the word fornication instead of adultery when he said that whoever divorces his wife except for fornication...

If he would have meant adultery, he would've said adultery because there is a Greek word that means adultery only. But instead of using the Greek word that means adultery only, he used another Greek word that describes either adultery or idolatry. And I hope that I haven't confused anyone here and I know that this is somewhat difficult to grasp but it's imperative that we ask this question. Why didn't he say whoever divorces his wife except for adultery? Obviously because that's not what he meant. What he meant was exactly what he said; I say to you whoever divorces his wife except for idolatry and marries another commits adultery.

So, what is it exactly that our Messiah is telling us here in verse nine? He is certainly not saying that the only reason you can divorce your wife is for adultery or he would've said that. But he didn't say that. He chose to use another word other than adultery that clearly means idolatry.

Today there is a new phrase going around that many people are using. Many women today have what they call their soap opera husbands. Have you ever heard that term? It's becoming widely popular within our culture today. In other words, if a woman has a soap opera husband she is lusting after a man on a soap opera and has chosen to spiritually marry herself to this man on the soap opera. So, what's the big deal about a woman having a soap opera husband?

If my wife comes to me and tells me that she has a soap opera husband... what is she telling me? She's telling me that she's lusting

after another man on the television is she not? You bet she is. She's telling me that she has replaced me in her mind and in her heart with a man in a soap opera.

Keeping this in mind, what did our Messiah teach us? Did he not also teach us that if a man looks upon a woman lustfully in his mind that he has also done it in his heart? In other words, if you've done it in your mind... you've done it in your heart and you are guilty of it. That is a form of idol worship because you are worshiping something else outside of the commandment of God.

You see how slick the devil is? Most people think that for a woman to have a soap opera husband is funny. It's entertaining. But in the eyes of God is anything but funny and it's anything but entertaining.

If a woman comes to her husband and notifies him that she has a soap opera husband... does that man have a right to divorce that woman? You bet he does. You bet he does. She has just opened Pandora's box. She has just transgressed not only against her husband, but against God himself who made her husband the head of her household. And I might add that, that door swings both ways. If a man has a movie star wife and is lusting after a woman on the silver screen, then he too is guilty of committing fornication with an idol and will indeed be held accountable for it.

When a married woman flirts with other men around town, there should be no mistake in our minds that her husband is most likely going to be angry just as if a man was to flirt with women around town his wife would rightly be angry. When we make a vow in front of Yehovah God, and then we betray that vow especially in public... we are indeed guilty of sin and transgression. Why? Because if two people are married they have made a vow to each other to forsake all others. And a vow is no small thing in the eyes of our Father in heaven.

Keeping concept that in mind... what happens when we are baptized?

When we are baptized, we are making a vow to God our Father in heaven that we are going to pick up our crosses and follow his only begotten Son back to him. Do you see how this works? Do you see what our Messiah is saying? Do you see why he did not use the word adultery when giving a reason for a man to divorce his wife? It's not just about the physical it's also about the spiritual. Surely if a woman commits adultery a man has the right to divorce her but more than that... Man also has the right to divorce a woman for idolatry which is a form of spiritual adultery.

If a man and a woman cannot live together because of promiscuity, because idol worship has come between them, because one or both of them have broken their vows... then there is going to be nothing but chaos within the household and the devil... the serpent... the Dragon will now have a foothold to use as a tool to separate the man from the woman. Because one or both of them have broken the commandment of God.

So which is better? Is it better for the man and the woman to continue to live in chaos and to continue to give the devil a foothold in their lives... or is it better to separate and to live in peace?

If a man cannot serve Yehovah in his own household because of a pagan woman who does not believe... or if a woman cannot serve Yehovah in her own household because of a pagan man who does not believe... this certainly does create chaos within the household. This is exactly why we are commanded not to marry outside of the assembly.

But let me also say this... just because a man believes and the woman does not, or just because a woman believes and a man does not, does not necessarily mean that they have to be divorced. The apostle Paul tells us very clearly that if your spouse does not believe and yet they are willing to stay with you, that you should stay married because who knows whether or not your spouse might be saved through you. And we'll talk more about this next week as we continue our study.

But you see, there are many different mechanics that to go into understanding this most precious teaching that our Messiah is laying out before us and unfortunately the conversation does not continue so what we have here is all that we have on the matter. But what we do have on the matter is very clear.

Part of being a true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christian is once again living in subordination and obedience to the one whom you love. And if we are living in subordination and obedience to the one whom we love, the one whom we put first which should be Yehovah and the King that he has given us... then we should have compassion not just on our spouses... but also on our brothers and sisters as well.

We must remember that our God is not a god of chaos. Our God is a God of peace and love and tranquility and justice. And therefore, if we are to live in him then we should be living in peace and in love and in tranquility and in justice.

Righteousness was not invented by man; it was invented by God. And true righteousness is what God says that it is. If our Father in heaven forgave us of our transgressions, we ought to be able to forgive each other of our transgressions. But there does come a time especially today in our time when it may become necessary to part ways in order for there to be peace and so that the Elohim of heaven and earth can be properly served.

And there is more to talk about concerning this topic of divorce and the separation of a man and a woman that we will touch on a little bit later on in this study. But what we need to be concerned with first and foremost is the will of our Father in heaven. Before any man hands his wife a certificate of divorce he must first and foremost judge rightly and justly whether or not he is just in doing so. And before any man hands his wife a certificate of divorce, he must take his petition to Yehovah

God and to ask what the will of Yehovah is.

The first rule of thumb is that we should never allow our flesh to guide our spirits. We should never allow our narcissism and are vanity to make decisions for us. And there is much, much more that we need to talk about concerning what our Messiah has just said here concerning divorce here in Matthew chapter 19, and we will talk about these things again next week as we continue to dive even deeper into our study of in Matthew chapter 19.

Next week will talk about who it is that is supposed to be the head of the household and who is supposed to be subordinate to whom. We'll talk more about the hierarchy and the chain of command according to our God breathed Scriptures. We'll talk about the fact that in the next life we will not be given in marriage. And we'll talk about what the apostle Paul had to say about marriage and divorce. But until that time, I would like for us all to once again re-examine exactly what it was that our Messiah did say here in Matthew chapter 19 as well as what he clearly did not say. And I would like us to pray, and I would like us to meditate this week on these Scriptures in order to see if we can indeed be of one mind and one heart when it comes to this particular teaching.

And although I hate to stop here, I think that it is good that we do stop here in order to allow these things to sink in and to have some time alone with our Father in heaven because I know that there are many out there who are confused about these Scriptures. They are perplexed, they are misguided, some even hurt and broken because of things that have happened or are happening right now within their lives. Let us spend some time this week praying for the family unit that God himself has created. And let us think about why it was that our Father in heaven created the family unit in the first place and what it teaches us. What is the family unit a shadow picture of? Let us spend some time this week meditating and thinking and allowing our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son to speak to us concerning this particular teaching. And let us always remember to be supportive to those who may be in this

particular situation as we speak. And above all, let us always remember that to fear God and to keep his commandments is indeed... the whole duty of man.

We will indeed talk more about this topic next seventh day Sabbath at 11 AM Eastern standard Time, but until that time I will do as I always do, and ask that you take these things to your prayer closet and bow your head and bend your knee and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here this morning be true or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door and on his door alone so that the proper door can be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.