

Dr. Don E. Galardi  
Sermon on the Mount  
Lesson Notes #6

*Studies from the Sermon on the Mount*

“A Christian’s Righteousness”

Matthew 5:21-30

I. Introduction.

A. The third and fourth antitheses.

II. Fidelity in Marriage (Antithesis #3)

A. Matthew 5:31-32

B. Historical background.

1. Hillel and Shammai

2. Jesus reply presupposes a high view of marriage.

a. Pharisees preoccupied with grounds for divorce;

Jesus with the institution of marriage.

b. Pharisees called provision for divorce a command;

Jesus called it a concession to the hardness of men’s hearts.

c. Pharisees regarded divorce lightly; Jesus took it seriously.

C. Justifiable Divorce

1. Must go before an ecclesiastical court.

a. Scriptural foundation for elder authority

Deuteronomy 19:17-21; John 20:23; Matthew 18:15-20; 16:19

b. Examples of church discipline

II Corinthians 2:5-11; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; Titus 1:10-14; 3:9-11

2. Biblical grounds and relationship difficulties

a. Exodus 21:7-11

III. Honesty in Speech – Matthew 5:32-37 (Antithesis #4)

A. The text – Matthew 5:33

1. Examples in the Old Testament.

a. Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21

B. Jesus illustrates – Matthew 5:34-37

1. Stott on vows.

2. Keep your promises

a. James 5:12

3. Literal and absolutist interpretation

a. Quakers and Anabaptists

4. “Yes be yes and no be no.”

a. Vows are unnerving if our word is our bond.