



**Sermon:** Radical Kingdom Living

**Text:** *Matthew 5: 27-48*

**Preacher:** *Paul Hahn*

### **Introductory questions -**

God's intentions and design for marriage are clearly laid out from the beginning, evident in Adam and Eve's relationship that God created and ordained.

1. What do you derive from Genesis 2:18-25 about God's purposes in marriage?

Scholar David Instone-Brewer holds that "the Old Testament recognizes four grounds for divorce. The first three are neglecting to provide food, clothing and conjugal love (by either husband or wife), and the fourth is committing adultery. . . . Abusive situations were covered by these laws, because physical abuse and emotional abuse are extreme forms of neglecting material support and physical affection."

1. Read Exodus 21:7-11. How can you prepare for or live out a marriage that meets God's original design? What difference does God's design make in living as a married couple?

The third commandment is, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" (Exodus 20:7).

1. Read Matthew 5:31-37. This passage covers the subjects of faithfulness in marriage and in speech. What is the connection between marriage and keeping promises?

### **Reflection questions:**

1. What do the "commands" mentioned by Jesus in vv. 27, 33, 38, and 43 have in common? What, according to Jesus, is the fulfillment of those "commands"?
2. The Pharisees refer to Moses' instructions about divorce as a "command" (19:7). What does Jesus' reply teach us about divorce (19:8)? In what ways might divorce reveal the hardness of our hearts?
3. What are some contemporary pressures on Christian marriages?
4. Why do you think divorce (not necessarily among Christians) has become more common?
5. How does honesty in our dealings with each other glorify God?
6. What did people hope to accomplish when they swore by the name of the Lord or by such things as heaven, the earth or Jerusalem?
7. Think of a time when you made a promise and did not keep it. Do you now wish you had not promised anything at all, or do you still think the promise was a good idea?
8. Why should taking an oath be unnecessary for Christians?
9. Do you think you are becoming more or less honest in your speech, and why?