1. **Introduction:** 
   1. ***“I say to you…”*** – Jesus exercising His authority. (Matthew 7:28-29; Mark 1:27)
   2. **The scribes and the Pharisees had established their own standards of righteousness.**(Matthew 15:1-3; Romans 9:30-32; 10:1-4)
2. **Jesus is now establishing His standard for any desiring to be part of His kingdom! (Luke 16:16)**
3. **“Righteousness” already addressed in Matthew 5:21ff…**
   1. **Anger** (5:21-26)
   2. **Lust** (5:27-30)
   3. Both begin in the heart before the actions of murder or adultery take place.
4. **Jesus Dealing With Marriage & Divorce (vs. 31-32)**
   1. ***“It was said, ‘whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce’”***
   2. *“…****but I say to you*** *that everyone who divorces his wife,* ***except for the reason of unchastity (fornication****; ASV),* ***makes her commit adultery****; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”*
5. ***Who raised the subject here in Matthew 5?*** *(Jesus establishes His authority)*
   1. ***What about in Matthew 19:3-9?*** What was their real point?
      1. Jesus confirms His Father’s authority in the beginning; Genesis 2:24
   2. **God & His Son Jesus had already answered the question!**
6. **Matthew 5 & Matthew 19:**
   1. **“***It was said, ‘whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce*’” **(Matthew 19:7-8)**
      1. From Deuteronomy 24:1-4
         1. **Limiting the out-of-control. “*Indecency*”**
         2. Give a “*certificate of divorce*” – install solemnity to marriage and divorce.
         3. Not allowed to take her back. Marriage not to be treated as a revolving door.
         4. **Matthew 19:8 – Jesus said, “*because of your hardness of heart*”.**
   2. **Why did Moses not address remarriage?**
      1. Under the law of Moses, could the spouse of one who committed adultery remarry? Why?
         1. The law called for the adulterer to be put to death.
      2. What was the real reason men put away their wives during the time of Moses and Jesus? Anything?
         1. Some “*indecency”*?
         2. Lust for another woman.
      3. **They were dealing “*treacherously”* with their wives.** (Malachi 2:14-16)
   3. **What was this “*indecency”* in Deuteronomy 24:1-4?** 
      1. **Two schools of thought in Jesus’ day:**
         1. **Shammai –** conservative. Defined it as unchastity or adultery… only.
         2. **Hillel –** liberal. Uncleanness in the most inclusive way
            1. “…If he found a woman whom he considered to be more attractive than his wife…”
            2. Which would be more popular in Jesus day? What is the popular choice today?
         3. **“*Indecency*” -** immodest exposure, nudity. **Usually translated “*nakedness”***
7. **Jesus’ standard: “*But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for…”***
   1. ***“Unchastity”*** (NASB); “***fornication”*** (ASV); “***sexual immorality”* (**NKJV; ESV) is the **only exception** to marriage for life.
   2. From the Greek word “porneia” meaning “illicit sexual intercourse” (Thayer & Vine)
   3. ***“Except”*** – “…the things happening without…” (Vine)
   4. Putting one’s spouse away for reasons other than the exception “***makes”*** them **“*commit adultery”***
   5. **One who marries** another put away for reasons other than “porneia” **commits adultery**.
8. **Questions needing an answer:**
   1. **Who do God’s laws on marriage and divorce apply to? “*Whoever”* & “*everyone”*!**
      1. **Who do the laws of adultery and fornication apply to?** (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (Romans 4:15; 5:13); John 12:48; Ephesians 1:22-23)
   2. **Who has the right to marry?** (1 Corinthians 7:28; Romans 7:1-3; Matthew 19:9)
   3. **Who has no right to marry?** (Romans 7:1-3; Mark 6:17-18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Matthew 5:32; 19:9)
   4. **Who may divorce and remarry?** (Matthew 5:32; 19:9)
   5. **What then is adultery?** (John 8:3; what is the definition of adultery? Cf., Mark 6:18)
   6. **If one is guilty of violating God’s law on marriage and divorce, how does one repent?** (Mark 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Ezra 10:10-12)
9. Appreciate the context:
   1. **Interesting that Jesus’ standard of righteousness re: marriage is found sandwiched between the following:**
      1. Controlled anger (5:21-26)
      2. Purity of heart for the opposite sex (5:27-30)
      3. Faithfulness to our commitments and promises. (5:33-37).
      4. Turning from revenge. (5:38-42)
      5. Love (5:43-48)
10. **Hebrews 13:4,** “*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*
    1. **Jesus established His standard of righteousness to honor His Father and the covenant of marriage He created.**