

SHIFTING SPIRITUAL GEARS

1). Shift: Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Scriptures

Matthew 5:17 (NIV) *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

2). Shift: Respect the Authority of Jesus

Matthew 5:21 (NIV) *You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.*

Matthew 5:23 (NIV) *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*

3). Shift: How we See People

Matthew 5:27 (NIV) *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

4). Shift: Viewing Marriage as Sacred

Matthew 5:31 (NIV) *"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

Matthew 19:1 (NIV) *When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" ⁴ "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'*

⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ⁷ "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" ⁸ Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." ¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹ Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.

Question #1: When is divorce permitted?

a). Adultery

Matthew 19:9 (NIV) *I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."*

b). Abandonment

1 Corinthians 7:15 (NIV) *But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

c). Abuse

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV) *Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Question #2: What if I'm the cause of my divorce?

Luke 9:62 (NIV) *"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

Question 3: Did I marry the right person?

Question # 4: How do we make it?

a). Jesus 1st.

b). Humility

c). Commitment

Question #5: What do I do if I'm single?

a). Do not be unequally yoked (2 Cor. 6:14)

b). Guard your Purity

Hebrew 13:4 (NIV) *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure*

My Next Step: How is God calling you to shift today?

- Read a book
- Pray with your spouse
- Go to a mechanic
- Make a commitment to purity.