

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE LIFE OF JESUS

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JOHN S. TORELL

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### PART 6: DIVORCE & OATH TAKING

#### **DIVORCE**

The First Covenant was between God and the people of Israel.<sup>1</sup> The people back then were no different than today as men tended to get tired of their wives and want to get rid of them. It was because of this stubborn attitude that Jesus instructed Moses how divorce should take place.

1. A husband could put his wife away if he discovered she was not a virgin. If the husband lied to get rid of his wife, he would be fined and had to stay with her.

If a woman was not a virgin when she married, she was to be taken outside and stoned. **Deuteronomy 22:13-21**

2. If a man married a woman and found some uncleanness in her, most likely referring to her religious standing according to Law of Moses concerning hygiene, he could file for divorce and she was free to marry another man. If the second man died or divorced her, she could not return to her first husband. **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

Divorce is a scourge that damages the souls of the children when the parents split up. According to Focus on the Family, the divorce rate among Christians who do not regularly attend church is 60% whereas Christians couples attending church on a weekly basis has a lower divorce rate of 38%.

The divorce rate among unbelievers is higher. According to the National Center for Health Statistics from 1975-1988, the average length of a marriage in the United States is 11 years and the divorce rate among unbelievers is close to 90%.

Jesus was not satisfied with the way things had been set up during the First Covenant, and He changed the doctrine on divorce. Jesus stated that fornication is the only thing, aside from death, that can break up a marriage. Fornication occurs when the man or woman has sexual relations with someone of the opposite sex outside of marriage. **Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-9**

The apostle Paul was used by the Holy Spirit to define relationships in a marriage, and if we follow what Jesus and what Paul taught, the union of a man and woman can be a great blessing on this earth. **1 Corinthians 7:1-16**

#### **OATH TAKING**

“I swear on my mother’s grave...” is an oath usually uttered by a person to add validity to a statement. The implication is that his mother is revered, and by using this expression, he would not dare desecrate her honor.

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 24:3-8



When humans take an oath to try and persuade God to give them favor is dishonest since it degrades God seek to bring Him to the level of mankind. God hears every prayer and does not need an oath to motivate Him into action.

Jephthah was a judge in Israel, facing a difficult battle with the children of Ammon. The Holy Spirit had anointed him for the battle. **Judges 11:29**

But Jephthah did not have faith in God and felt that he needed to make an oath in order to get God on his side. **verses 30-31**

God had already decided to give the Israelites the victory and has never demanded that a person take an oath as part of prayer. Jephthah was influenced by the doctrine of the Canaanite gods who had to be bribed by the people. Jephthah's oath put his entire family in jeopardy.

Returning home after the battle, Jephthah's daughter came out to greet her father and celebrate his homecoming. **verses 32-34**

Jephthah was filled with grief and should have realized that his ungodly oath violated the commandment given to Moses not to commit murder. **Exodus 20:13**

God had also forbidden the practice of human sacrifice. **Deuteronomy 18:9-10**

Jephthah was blinded by demonic forces and followed through with his oath, sacrificing his only daughter as a burnt offering to the Devil. **Judges 11:36-39**

## **WALK IN TRUTH**

Jesus did not want a repeat of what Jephthah had done when He set forth His doctrine on oath taking. **Matthew 5:33-36**

This commandment was repeated by Jesus' half-brother. **James 5:12**

Jesus wanted to clean out dishonesty within the New Testament church and He did a specific teaching on oath taking. The Pharisees had set up a religious system, and in order to wiggle themselves out of legal trouble to circumvent the laws of God, while simultaneously trapping people so that they were forced to pay fines to the Pharisees who sat as judges in the court system.

Jesus made it clear the Pharisaic system was to be rejected. **Matthew 23:16-22**

Jesus stated His disciples should daily walk in the light of God by always speaking the truth. This means when we say "yes," we mean what we say. There is no room for interpretation since truth is truth. **Matthew 5:37**

God can only be worshiped in truth. **John 4:21-24**

God is light. **1 John 1:4-7**

Satan is the father of all lies. **John 8:44**

Pledging to tell the truth in a court room, vowing to protect and uphold the Constitution when joining the military or police, or the promise that is made by a man and woman during the marriage ceremony does not fall under the teaching of oath taking by Jesus.

Freemasons, the Order of Skull and Bones, all university and college fraternities, Mormons and other secret societies that use an oath of death violate the Word of God and no Christian should ever take such an oath. **Isaiah 28:14-18**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***