Text: Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 5:31 6 It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Divorce Statistics – Source: Pew Research Center

*There are 750,000+ Divorces in America Every Year (#3 worldwide) * Most Americans file for divorce between

January and March

Fastest Growing Divorce Rate are Seniors: Age 50+ divorce rate doubled since 1990 Age 65+ divorce rate tripled Remarrying Increases the Risk of Divorce **States with Lowest Divorce Rate: IL and LA** • States with Highest Divorce Rate: NV and OK • Average Length of Marriage in U. S.: 7 years

Between 40-50% of all Marriages in U.S. end in Divorce
 Average Cost of Divorce: \$15,000 (much greater in the years after a divorce – particularly for women and children)

• Millennials and Gen Z are Much More cautious about Marriage (many of them experienced their parents' divorce)

Children of Divorce are 4 Times more **Likely to Become Divorced Themselves** Living Together Increases the Risk of **Divorce Substantially 69% of Women Initiated Their Divorce 31%** of Men Initiated Their Divorce

1. Divorce was <u>Never</u> God's Plan

2. No Fault Divorce is a <u>Fallacy</u>

3. Jesus Always Lifted

Up Women

4. Biblical Grounds for Divorce **Include** <u>Adultery</u> and Abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:12-15) (In Other **Specific Cases, Divorce May Be the Only Option.**)

¹ Cor. 7:12 To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.

¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

5. Divorce is Sin - But God Can Forgive! (1 John 1:8-9)

1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

