



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

DERICK BINGHAM B.A.

There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- Studies In The Sermon On The Mount -

TUESDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 1992

Subject: 'Divorce And Oath-Taking: Are They Permissible?'

Matthew 5:31-37

~ This Evening This Ministry Enters, By the Grace of God, Its 16th Year ~

1. **What was the law of Moses regarding divorce (Deut. 24:1-4)?**
It was to control divorce. Moses' law limited divorce to certain causes; when there was some natural, moral or physical defect discovered in the wife. The man had to establish this in the sight of two witnesses and he must give his wife a bill of divorcement. He was not allowed to marry her again.
2. **What was our Lord's attitude regarding divorce (Matt. 19:1-9)?**
 - (a) The Pharisees were preoccupied with the grounds for divorce: Jesus with the institution of marriage.
 - (b) The Pharisees called Moses' provision for divorce a command: Jesus called it a concession to the hardness of human hearts.
 - (c) The Pharisees regarded divorce lightly: Jesus regarded it so seriously that, with only one exception, sexual infidelity, He called all remarriage after divorce adultery.
3. **What was the attitude of the Law of Moses to oath-taking?**
It prohibited false swearing, i.e. making a vow and then breaking it. It restricted oath-taking to serious and important matters (Ex. 20:7; Lev. 19:12; Num 30:2; Deut. 23:21 etc.)
4. **What was our Lord's attitude to oath-taking?**
 - (a) The Pharisees made a distinction between formulae which mention God and those which do not: Jesus taught that any preoccupation with formulae was not the point at all. We must keep our promise and be people of our word. Then vows become unnecessary.
 - (b) Our Lord is teaching that if divorce is due to human hard-heartedness, swearing is due to human untruthfulness. Both were permitted by the law: neither was commanded: neither should be necessary.

'It is to be understood that the views given above are my own personal views. They must not be regarded as necessarily the views of the Crescent Church, or any other churches associated with it, as a whole, or of their leadership as a whole. These questions are extremely difficult and Christians must be persuaded before the Lord in their own minds and consciences.'

-DERICK BINGHAM