



The Sermon on the Mount Study
Bible Study Session 7
Matthew 5:31-32

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Greek NT

5.31 Ἐρρέθη δέ, Ὅς ἂν ἀπολύσῃ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, δότω αὐτῇ ἀποστάσιον. 5.32 ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ἀπολύων τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ παρεκτὸς λόγου πορνείας ποιεῖ αὐτὴν μοιχευθῆναι, καὶ ὃς ἐὰν ἀπολελυμένην γαμήσῃ μοιχᾶται.

La Biblia de las Américas

31 También se dijo: “CUALQUIERA QUE REPUDIÉ A SU MUJER, QUE LE DE CARTA DE DIVORCIO.” 32 Pero yo os digo que todo el que repudia a su mujer, a no ser por causa de infidelidad, la hace cometer adulterio; y cualquiera que se casa con una mujer repudiada, comete adulterio.

NRSV

31 It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” 32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

NLT

31 You have heard that the law of Moses says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a letter of divorce.’ 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The Outline of the Text:¹

You have heard it said...

But I say to you...

I. Thesis: Divorce permitted, v. 31

OT Text: Deut. 24:1-4

1 Suppose a man enters into marriage with a woman, but she does not please him because he finds something objectionable about her, and so **he writes her a certificate of divorce**, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house; she then leaves his house 2 and goes off to become another man’s wife. 3 Then suppose the second man dislikes her, **writes her a bill of divorce**, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house (or the second man who married her dies); 4 her first husband, who sent her away, is not permitted to take her again to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that would be abhorrent to the Lord, and you shall not bring guilt on the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession.

(Deut. 24:1, Ἐὰν δέ τις λάβῃ γυναῖκα καὶ συνοικήσῃ αὐτῇ, καὶ ἔσται ἐὰν μὴ εὕρῃ χάριν ἐναντίον αὐτοῦ, ὅτι εὗρεν ἐν αὐτῇ ἄσχημον πρᾶγμα, καὶ **γράψῃ αὐτῇ βιβλίον ἀποστασίου**....)

Marriage, divorce, and re-marriage in the Ancient World:

Greco-Roman Traditions:

Jewish Traditions:

II. Antithesis: Divorce discouraged, v. 32

Jesus’ warning:

- 1) “anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery”
- 2) “whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery”

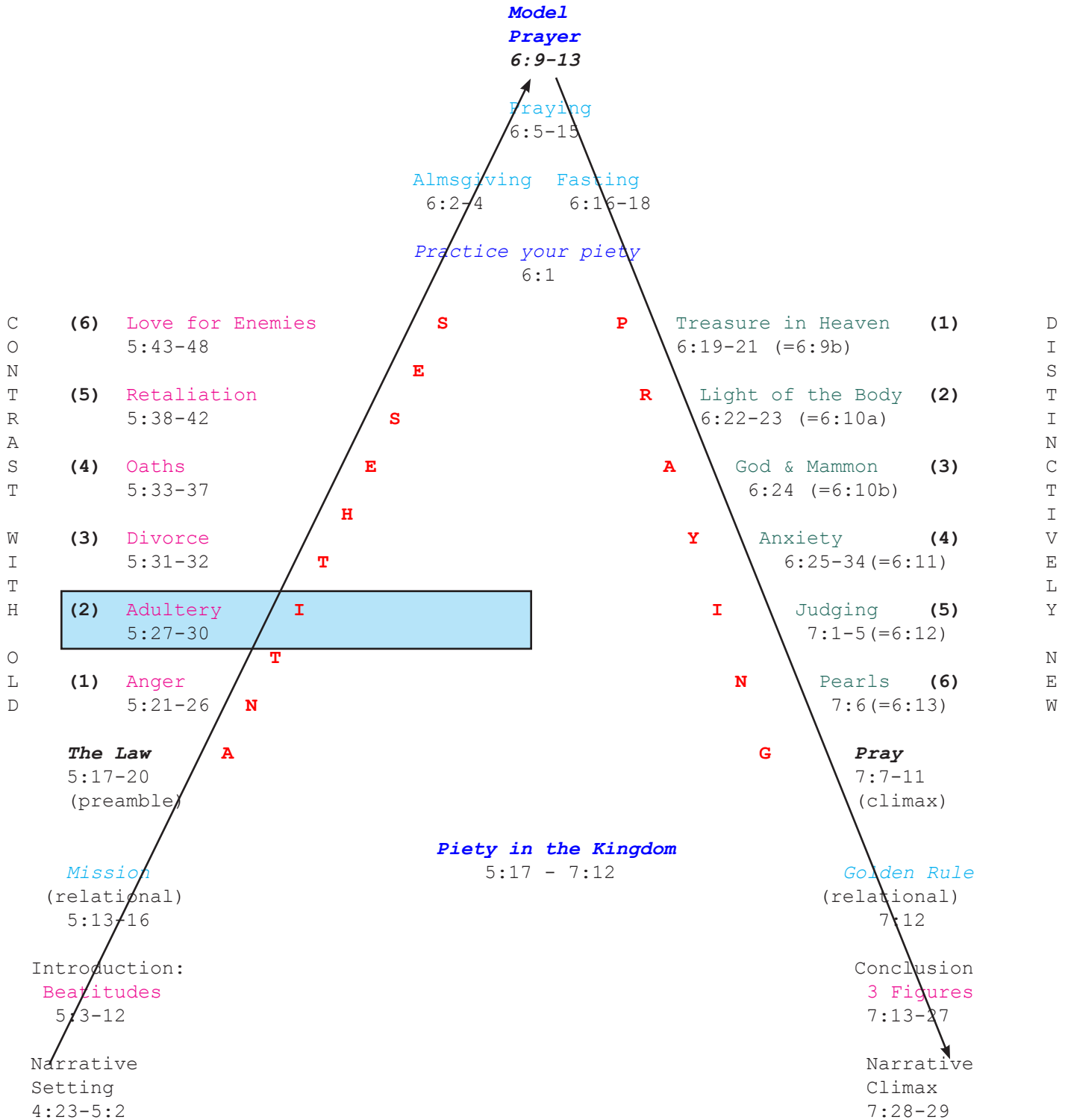
Supplementary Texts:

Matthew 19:3-12 (Mark 10:2-12 // Luke 16:18)

¹Serious study of the biblical text must look at the ‘then’ meaning, i.e., the historical meaning, and the ‘now’ meaning, i.e., the contemporary application, of the scripture text. In considering the historical meaning, both elements of literary design and historical aspects must be considered. In each study we will attempt a summary overview of these procedures in the interpretation of the scripture text.

The Literary Structure of the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 4:23-7:29



Source: Lorin L. Cranford, *Study Manual of the Sermon on the Mount: Greek Text* (Fort Worth: Scripta Publishing Inc., 1988), 320. Adapted from Gunter Bornkamm, "Der Aufbau der Bergpredigt," *New Testament Studies* 24 (1977-78): 419-432.