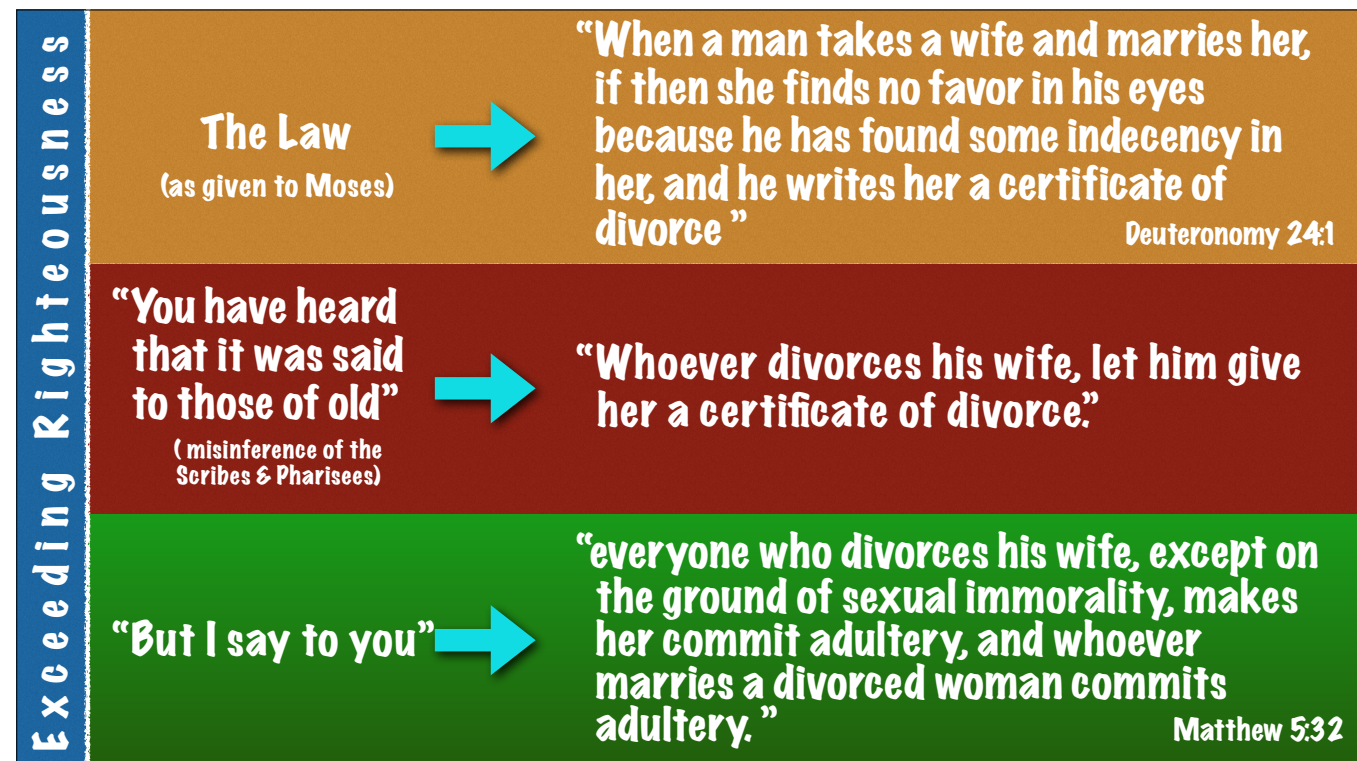




- Matthew 5:27-32



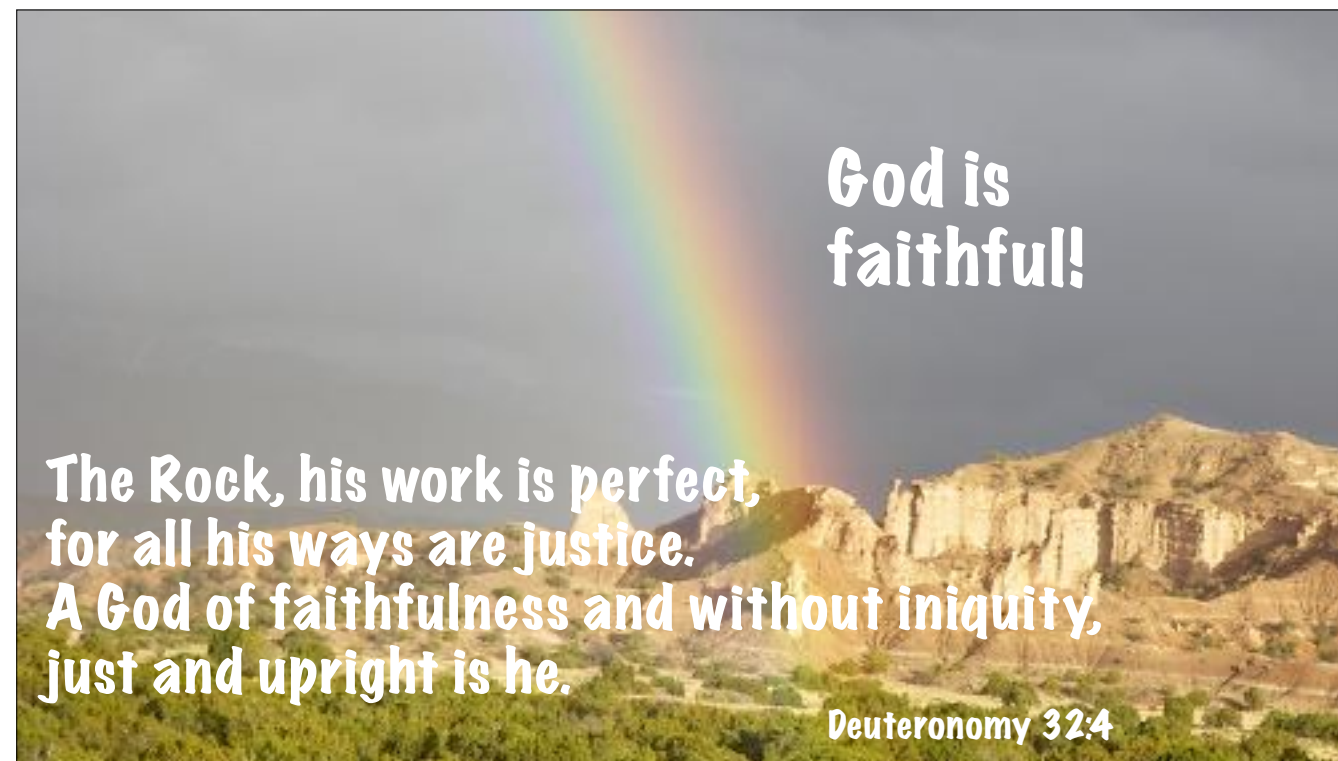
- Jesus' second example of true righteousness. Mt. 5:27-32
- Points to purity... but more.
- faithfulness from the heart



- Divorce is subtle form of adultery (excuse to get new woman/man)
 - Divorce seems to make the lust "legitimate"
 - Used any rational as an excuse for unfaithfulness to wife.



- God is faithful: 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18
- Exodus 34:6: Jehovah passed before him and proclaimed, "Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,



- Deuteronomy 32:4: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.



- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (ESV) 1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

Abijah's Plea to Jeroboam



- Abijah, king of Judah, grandson of Solomon, confronts Jeroboam, king of Israel
- Abijah pleads with Jeroboam to not fight
- 2 Chronicles 13:8-12

Abijah's Plea to Jeroboam

You have forsaken Him

But Abijah...

— took 14 wives

— walked in all the sins

— heart was not wholly true to Jehovah

We have not forsaken Him

Jehovah is our God

priests ... sons of Aaron,
Levites

offer to Jehovah every
morning

We keep the charge
of Jehovah

God is with us at our head

- Abijah's Life:
 - 2 Chronicles 13:21: But Abijah grew mighty. And he took **fourteen wives** and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.
 - 1 Kings 15:3-5 (ESV) 3 And **he walked in all the sins that his father did before him**, and **his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God**, as the heart of David his father.
- Was Abijah Faithful to God?

Abijah's Plea to Jeroboam

You have forsaken Him

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- Faithfulness = perfect obedience. NO!
 - We would not make this mistake in marriage relationship.
 - My wife is faithful to me when she obeys my every command. (recipe for trouble!)
 - What do we really care about in marriage.
 - Does she love me? Is she devoted to me? Can I depend on her?

Abijah's Plea to Jeroboam

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- Faithfulness is about heart. Is my heart wholly His?
- Struggle with David as a man after God's own heart.
 - His Heart was Gods.
 - Not perfect obedience.



- Ephesians 5:32 **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.** 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- **Contentment**
- **Rejoice**
- **Discipline**

**How can I demonstrate that
I am faithful to my spouse?**



- Demonstrating faithfulness in my marriage: Proverbs 5:15-21
- Contentment
- Rejoicing
- Discipline

How can I demonstrate my faithfulness to my God?

Contentment



- Habakkuk
 - Sees wickedness of own people, but God not doing anything.
 - Jehovah replies that he is sending the Babylonians to deal with Judah
 - But Babylonians are more wicked than Judah, wait for answer
 - Jehovah explains that the Babylonians will be judged also for their wickedness

How can I demonstrate my faithfulness to my God?

Contentment

**but the righteous
shall live by his faith**
Habakkuk 2:4

- Before He tells Habakkuk this,
 - Habakkuk 2:4: Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.
 - Used 3 times in the NT (Romans, Galatians, Hebrews)

How can I demonstrate my faithfulness to my God?

Contentment

**the righteous shall
live by faith**

- Habakkuk: during troubled times, we trust in God always
- Romans: gospel of Jesus Christ is our salvation
- Galatians: don't follow different, distorted gospels
- Hebrews: don't go back
- Trust in God with all your heart. Don't keep looking for other solutions in false gods, man, or yourself.

How can I demonstrate my faithfulness to my God?



- Rejoice (18-19)
 - In your relationship with God...find joy, not obligation
 - Don't be complacent: delight, intoxicated



- Paul's Instruction in Philippians
 - Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
- Paul in Roman prison, expecting to be judged and executed
 - Joy is not rooted in circumstances or emotion; but in relationship.



- Christ proclaimed
 - 1:18: Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.
- I need to be joyfully proclaiming Christ.
- I need to rejoice whenever I hear that Christ is being proclaimed
 - no matter who is doing it
 - no matter who is being taught



- Together: Unity of brothers in Christ
 - 2:2: complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
 - 2:17-18: Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.



- Too often we forget to choose to be united together in Christ
 - We let little things irritate and annoy us.
 - We let big things separate, fail to solve issues correctly: love, build up



- In the Lord
 - 3:1: Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.
- So important, so easily overlooked
- We have received the greatest gift on earth.



- 3:8-11 (ESV) 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of **the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that **I may gain Christ** 9 and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—



- 10 that **I may know him and the power of his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, **becoming like him** in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



- Always (all circumstances)
 - 4:4-7: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 **do not be anxious** about anything, but in everything by **prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



- 5 Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone.
- 6 **do not be anxious** about anything
- but in everything by **prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



- 4:10-13:
 - 10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.
 - 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.



- 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.
- In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.
- 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



- Find joy in your relationship with Jesus
 - Set aside the feeling of drudgery; compulsion; fear; ritual
 - Teach others the joy of salvation
 - Join together in special relationships with brethren
 - Relationship with Jesus greatest aspect of your life.
 - Don't let difficult circumstances keep you from finding joy in Him; rather strength.

How can I demonstrate my faithfulness to my God?

Discipline



- Consequences (21)
 - Jehovah sees
 - Discipline vs. Foolishness



- Fearful Expectation of Judgment and Sinning:
 - Hebrews 6:4-6: For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,



- 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.



- Hebrews 10:26-27: For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.



- Reaching for It
 - Hebrews 4:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.



- Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity
- Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



- Hold Fast
 - Hebrews 4:14 (ESV) 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
 - Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



- Hebrews 6:18: (ESV) to hold fast to the hope set before us.
- Hebrews 10:19: Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,



- Hebrews 10:23 (ESV): Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
- Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.



- Enduring
 - Hebrews 5:7-9 (ESV) 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,



- Hebrews 10:36: For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.



- Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



- Hebrews 12:3 (ESV) 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
- Hebrews 12:7 (ESV) 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?



- We must discipline ourselves to look beyond this life to our eternal hope.
 - Know that if we live in sin, there will be judgment
 - We must look forward to our eternal home
 - Reach for it
 - Hold fast, despite circumstances
 - Endure suffering



- 2 Timothy 2:11-13 (ESV) 11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.
- Are you Faithful to God?
 - How does He know?
- Be content: live by faith
- Rejoice in the Lord
- Be disciplined in your faith

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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God Is Faithful! (part 3) Demonstrating My Faithfulness to My God

Matthew 5:27-32

Synopsis: Jesus' second example of true righteousness is exemplified by the prohibition of adultery and divorce, both of which the Scribes and Pharisees had relaxed, failing to understand that the problem was in the heart. True righteousness understands that this is really about faithfulness. In marriage we covenant to be one flesh, adultery violently violates that relationship, as does divorce. In this less we also consider ways that we can actively demonstrate our faithfulness to our spouse and to our God.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."