

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 5e

Deuteronomy 24:1-2

When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's wife...

ערוֹת דָּבָר

(*ervat davar*)

Deuteronomy 23:13-14

And you shall have a tent peg among your tools, and it shall be when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and shall turn to cover up your excrement. Since Adonai your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see **anything indecent** among you lest He turn away from you.

Q: What is an *ervat davar* (“indecency”) in the context of marriage?

A (pt1): *Ervat davar* ≠ adultery.

Leviticus 20:10 (+ Deut. 22:22)

If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Q: What is an *ervat davar* (“indecency”) in the context of marriage?

A (pt2): It depends upon who you ask.

Hillel vs. Shammai

Hillel: Liberal view

Shammai: Stringent/legalistic view



Hillel's Tomb
(Merom, near Sefat)



Shammai's Tomb
(Merom, near Sefat)

The School of Shammai say, “A man may not divorce his wife unless he has found in her an ervat davar, as it is said, ‘...because he has found some ervat davar in her.’”

The School of Hillel say, “Even if she spoiled a dish for him, as it is said, ‘...because he has found some ervat davar in her.’”

R’ Akiva says, “Even if he found another more beautiful than she is, as it is said, ‘Then it comes to pass if she find no favor in his eyes...’” [Deut. 24:1]

∞ Mishnah Gittin 9.10

Matthew 5:32

*“Yet I say to you, one who sends away his wife other than for a matter of **porneo** brings her into the grasp of adulteries, and he who takes the divorced woman as a wife is an adulterer.”*

Q: What is an *ervat davar* (“indecency”) in the context of marriage?

A (pt3): According to Yeshua it has *something* to do with sexual indecency.

Matthew 5:31-32 (Peshitta) *Syriac*

*“It has been said that whoever divorces his wife, must give her the divorce papers. But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except for [‘sexual indecency’], causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is separated **but not divorced**, commits adultery.”*

Mark 10:11-12

He said to them, *“One who divorces his wife **so that he may take another** is an adulterer against her. A woman who leaves her husband **so that she may go to another man** is an adulterer.”*

Luke 16:18

*“Anyone who divorces his wife **in order to marry another** is an adulterer, and anyone who marries the woman divorced from her husband is an adulterer.”*

[Read the lead-in to this passage – Luke 16:14-17] !

Luke 16:18 (*Peshitta*)

“He who divorces his wife in order to marry another commits adultery; and he who marries the one who is illegally separated commits adultery.”

The Rules of a *Gett* (גט)

- The purpose of the *gett* was to allow the “sent away” wife to remarry.

The essential formula of a letter of a gett is, 'Behold, you are permitted to any man.' R' Judah says, 'Let this be from me your letter of expulsion and writ of release and deed of dismissal that you may be wedded to whatever man you desire.' The integral formula in a gett is, 'Behold, you are a freewoman, lo, you belong to yourself.'

∞ *Mishnah Gittin 9.3*

- Only the husband could issue a *gett*.
- A wife could request the court to force her husband to issue a *gett*.

Exodus 21:10-11

If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish ...
...her **food**,
...her **clothing**, or
...her **marital rights**.

And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.

The Master's Conclusion

(Matthew 5:31-32 & 19:1-9)

- **Return to God's original design.**
 - Only two commandments:
 - Be fruitful and multiply. (+)
 - Don't eat from *that* tree! (-)
- **When sin entered the world, things became extremely complicated and confusing.**
 - Thus we need additional commandments to illumine our way through the darkness outside the Garden.
- **God made concessions due to the hardness of men's hearts.**

Conclusion:

Malachi 2:13-17

“And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of Adonai with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because Adonai has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. (And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring?) Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce,” says Adonai, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says Adonai of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

You have wearied Adonai with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of Adonai, and He delights in them (or else where is the God of justice?)”