

**FAITHFULNESS**

**KEYS  
TO THE  
KINGDOM**

**MATT 5:31-37**

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**Old Faithful Geyser**  
**Yellowstone National Park**  
Erupts 1-1/2 to 5 minutes,  
every 35 to 120 minutes.  
Max height 90 to 184 feet.  
Biggest regular geyser there.

## **Broken Hearts and Homes**

In the US – one divorce occurs every 13 seconds.

Average age of couples at first divorce: 30.

(Among those who actually *do* marry.)

Prior cohabitation *raises* risk of divorce 40%.

50% of kids in the US will see parents divorce.

Almost 1/2 of those will see a 2nd divorce.

43% are being raised without their fathers.

## **Broken Hearts and Homes**

Rate for under 50 about 2X that of those 50+.

Divorces for 50+ almost doubled past 25 years.

Today - 15% of women divorced or separated.

In 1920 - less than 1% of women div. or sep.

## **Broken Hearts and Homes**

Risk is lower when:

Parents were happily married.

Marriage occurred at age 25+.

Couple attended college.

Couple has strong religious foundation.

# **Faithfulness in Marriage**

## **Matt 5:31-32**

Let's start here first: Matt 5:1-30.

Up the mountain before down the aisle.

Up the mountain before down the tubes.

"It was said ..." Deut 24:1-4 (mis)used to allow easy, no-reason divorce. "Give her legal paper."

Jesus called His disciples to radical faithfulness.

## **Faithfulness in Marriage**

Matt 19:3-9 From the beginning. One male and one female. Leave and cleave. One flesh.

“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

“Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives ... but from the beginning it has not been this way.”

# **Faithfulness in Promises**

## **Matt 5:34-37**

From marriage vows to all commitments.

“You have heard, it was said.” Scrip (mis)used.

Cf. Lev 19:12; Num 30:2; Deut 23:21, 23.

Their escape clause: vows not “to the Lord.”

Matt 23:16-22 If by heaven, earth, Jerusalem, or even their own head ... not binding!