

BE DIFFERENT LIVE DIFFERENT

The Permanence of Marriage Matthew 5:31-32

1. What was the situation?

- a. Jewish leaders believed and were teaching that God condoned divorce.
- b. Jewish leaders were arguing about which reasons were legitimate.

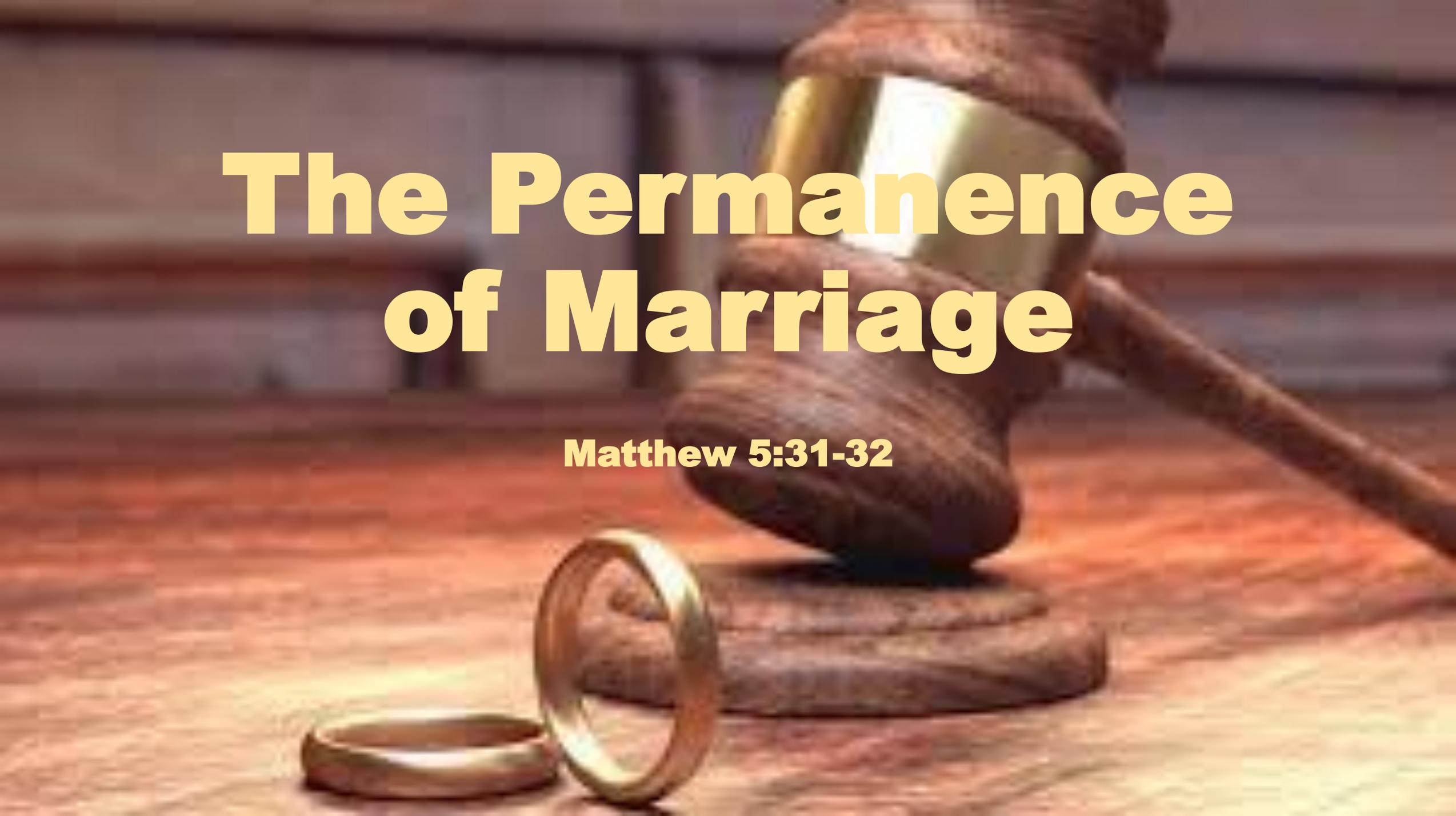
2. What was the error?

- a. They were seeking to please themselves while remaining justified under the law.

- b. They had confounded the civil law with God's moral law.
- c. They ignored God's purpose for creating marriage.

3. What was Jesus' correction?

- a. It was a reminder of God's purpose for creating marriage.
- b. It was a rebuke of their hard-hearted desire to divorce.
- c. It was a call to kingdom conduct.

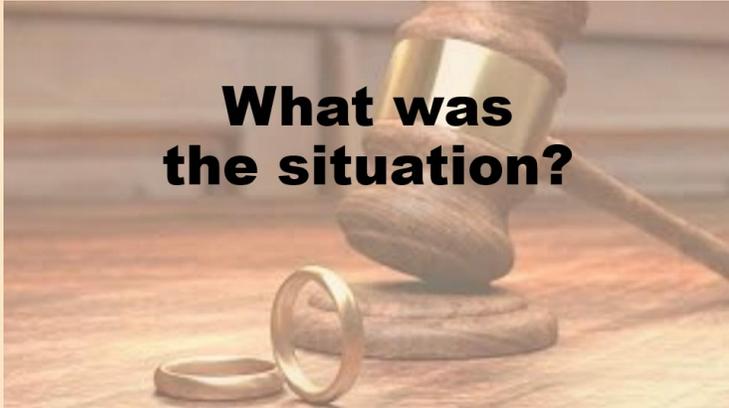
A wooden gavel with a brass band is positioned diagonally across the frame. In the foreground, two gold wedding rings are placed on a wooden surface. The background is a blurred wooden wall.

The Permanence of Marriage

Matthew 5:31-32

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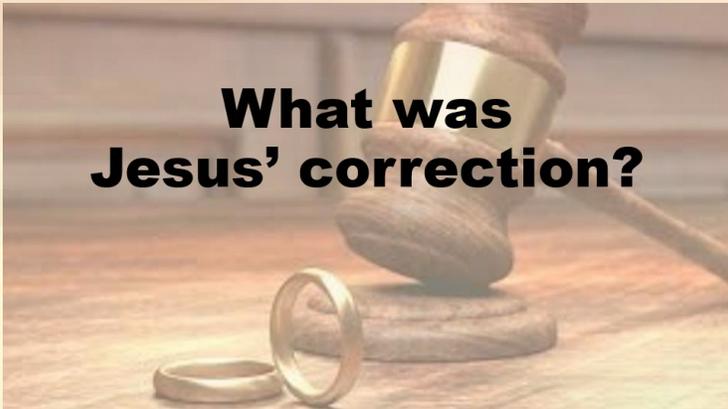
**It was said, “Whoever sends his wife away,
let him give her a certificate of divorce”;
but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife,
except for the reason of unchastity,
makes her commit adultery;
and whoever marries a divorced woman
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**What was
the situation?**



**What was
their error?**



**What was
Jesus' correction?**

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**What was
the situation?**

The situation...

Jewish leaders believed and were teaching that God had condoned divorce.

Matthew 5:31

**It was said, “Whoever sends his wife away,
let him give her a certificate of divorce.”**

Deuteronomy 24:1

**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...**

Matthew 19:3-9

Matthew 19:7

They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Their assumption was that if the Law makes provision for it, God condones it.

The situation...

The leaders believed and were teaching
that God condoned divorce.

**The leaders were arguing about which
reasons for divorce were legitimate.**

Matthew 19:3

**And some Pharisees came to Him, testing Him,
and saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife
for any reason at all?”**

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**What was
their error?**

Their error...

**They were seeking to please themselves
while remaining justified under the Law.**

So, they confounded the civil Law
with God's moral law.

And they ignored God's purposes
for creating marriage.

Luke 16:15

**And He said to them,
“You are those who justify yourselves
in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts.”**

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The legalist wants to please himself but also to maintain his righteousness, so he discovers how to parse the law in ways that allow him to “keep” it and still do what he wants.

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Matthew 19:7-8

They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

Matthew 19:7-8

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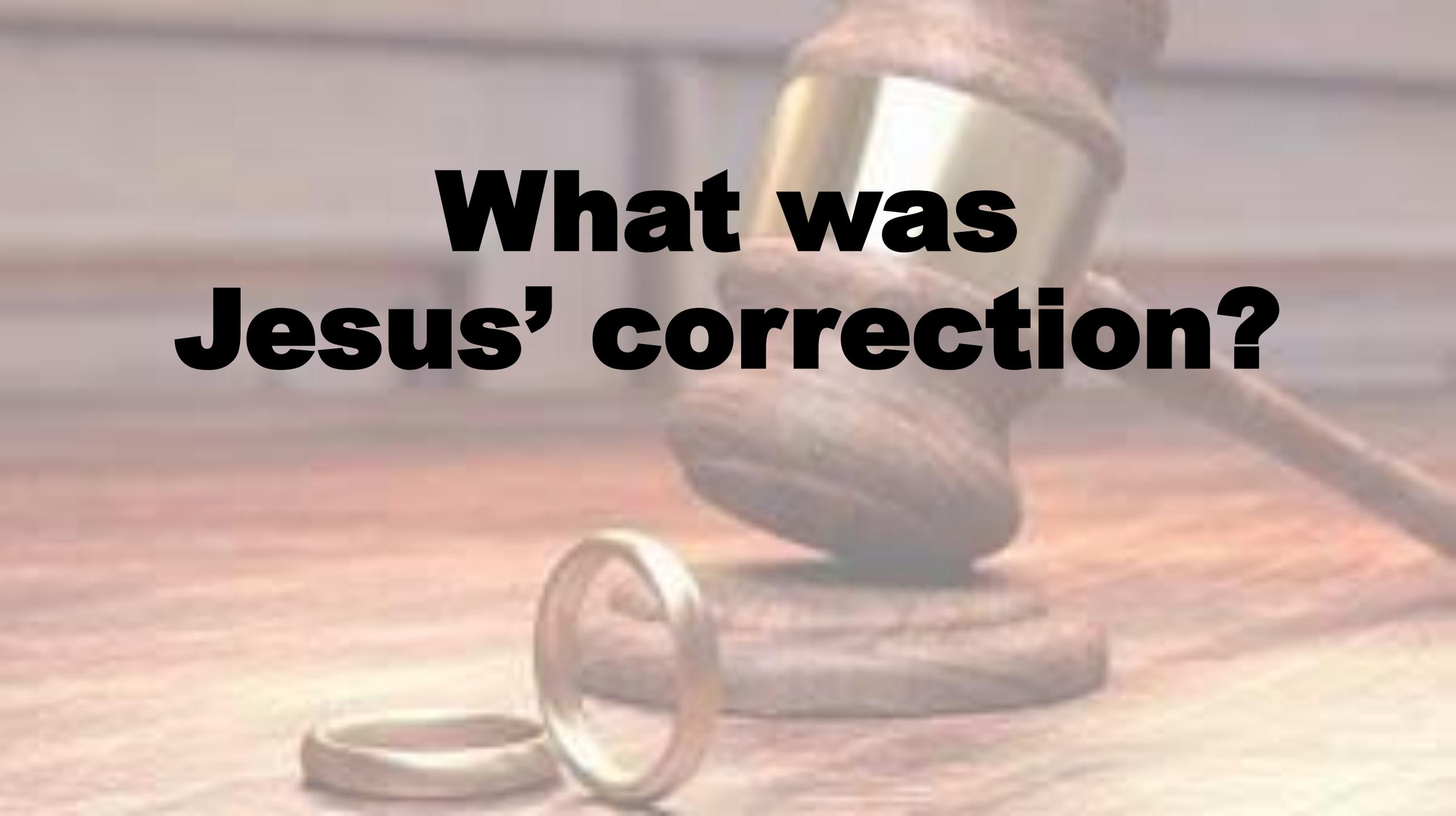
**And they ignored God's purposes
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Matthew 19:4-6

And He answered and said, “Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’? Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

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**What was
Jesus' correction?**

Jesus' correction...

**It was a reminder of God's purposes
for creating marriage.**

God's purposes for marriage?

**God created marriage
to reflect His nature.**

Matthew 19:4-6

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**God is three persons
who exist in one essence.
Marriage is two, a man and a
woman, becoming one.**

God's purposes for marriage?

God created marriage
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**God created marriage
to reflect His character.**

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**God is faithful to His promises
and full of love for His people.**

1 Kings 8:23

And he said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart.

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The certificate of divorce was an instrument of justice for women to protect them from the selfish whims of husbands.

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Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.