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The Vows of a Widow or Divorced Woman 30: 9

The vows of a widow or divorced woman DIG: As far as being protected from making a rash or foolish vow, what was different with the widows or divorced women? Do you have to be perfect to be an ambassador of Messiah? Why? Why not?

REFLECT: Why is speaking truth and keeping your word so essential? Why do you think God places so much importance on vows? What does that say about God and His promises? What does it mean to be an ambassador of Messiah? What is your mission?

The principle for today is that vows and oaths are meant to be kept, because we are ambassadors of the Messiah (Second Corinthians 5:20).



The vow of a widow, however, or of a divorcee, including everything to which she has obligated herself, will stand against her (**to see link click Fi – The Fulfillment of Vows and Oaths**)**.** If **a woman** was **widowed** or **divorced**, **she** would usually return to **her** father's home, if he were still alive **(Gen 38:11;**

Leviticus 22:13; Ruth 1:8), or be cared for by one of her sons. But in that situation, **her vows** could not be annulled by **her** father or **her** son. That **woman** had no higher authority to cancel **her vow**. If she were living alone, she was no longer in **her father's** house and **she** is no longer under the authority of **her husband**. **She** must stand by **her vow** in the same way as **a man** (see **Fj – The Male Vow**), and **her vows** and **oaths** were unbreakable and must be kept. As a result, because **she** had no protection from a rash or unwise **vow** or **oath**, **she** needed to be very careful. Rushing into unwise commitments could be devastating **(Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:1-6)**.

The reason today that **vows** and **oaths** are meant to be kept, is because we are ambassadors of **Messiah**. The lost are looking at us. In **Paul's** second letter to **the Corinthians**, **he** summarized **his** message, saying: **We are ambassadors of the Messiah; in effect, God is making His appeal through us. What we do is appeal on behalf of the Messiah, "Be reconciled to God" (Second Corinthians 5:20)!** This is equal to the Great Commission (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Mo – The Great Commission**). Because we are **His ambassadors**, it is though **God the Father makes His appeal** to the lost **on behalf** of **the Son, Yeshua Messiah**, to be **reconciled to** the Triune **God.**[696] This appeal for people to be **reconciled** makes it clear that the sinner is never delivered from wrath and judgment to blessing and reward without a personal response to the truth of the Gospel through the means **He** provided: We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in **Messiah** alone (see the commentary on **Galatians Bc – We are Not Justified by Deeds of the Torah**). When our sins are forgiven, we get a new purpose driven life, and we are promised an eternal home in heaven.

We were made for a mission. **God** is at work in the world and **He** wants us to join **Him**. This assignment is called our mission. **God** wants us to have both a ministry in **the Body of Messiah** and a mission to the world. Our ministry is to believers, and our mission is to unbelievers. This is **God's** purpose for our lives. The English word mission comes from the Latin word for *sending*. Being a believer includes being sent into the world as **an ambassador**, a representative, of **Yeshua Messiah**. The mission **Yeshua** had while on the earth is now our mission because **we** are **the Body of Messiah**. What **He** did in **His** physical body, **we** are to continue as **His** spiritual body, the Church. What is that mission? Introducing people to **the Lord**! The Bible says **God is making His appeal through us.** If we cannot keep our **vows** and **oaths**, our **God** is not taken seriously. Guilt by association if you will.

ADONAI wants to redeem human beings from Satan and reconcile them **to**

Himself (at **His** expense) so **we** can fulfill the purposes **He** created us for: to love **Him**, to be a part of **His** family, to become like **Him**, to serve **Him**, and to tell others about **Him**. Once **we** are **His**, **God** wants us to reach others. **He** saves us and then sends us out. **We are ambassadors of the Messiah. We** are the messengers of **God's** love and purposes to the world. Hence, we must represent **Him** well by keeping our **vows** and **oaths**.[697]

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being so wise and loving! Thank **You** that You use women in **Your** mission field. **You** used **Priscilla** (**Acts 18:26)** to help Apollos understand more clearly the way of **God**. You used **Philip's** unmarried daughters to prophesy. **Philip, the proclaimer of Good News, who was one of the seven, and we stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:8c-9). You** used **Miriam** as a prophetess to lead **Isra'el** in praise of **Your** mighty work. **Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing, as Miriam sang to them: Sing to ADONAI, for He is highly exalted! The horse and its rider ADONAI have been thrown into the sea (Exodus 15:20-21)! Deborah** was **a prophetess (Judges 4:4),** important in **Israel's** deliverance from the Canaanites. **Elizabeth** gave birth to **John the Baptist (Luke1:57-60)** who prepared the way for **the Messiah (Matthew 11:11). You** used **the Virgin Mary**, to mother **Your Son**, **the Messiah**. It is such a joy to serve **You**. In **Messiah Yeshua's Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*