



The Gospel of Mark
THE REALITY OF DIVORCE

Mark 10:1-16

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This week, we will look at Jesus' theme in Mark 10 is the reality of Divorce. We see a crowd form around Jesus and his "custom" is to teach them. Jesus has incredible passion Jesus over the gospel and compassion over people.

Mark 10:1-16

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. 2 And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." 5 And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,[a] 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 10 And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." 13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Pharisees question Jesus and are really interested in something more than Jesus' legal opinion on this issue. These people know the law. It also exposes a fatal flaw in the Pharisees' whole approach to the law. They come at the law asking, "What does it allow me to do?" or, to put it more bluntly, "What can I get away with?" Most Jews abused this right to divorce his wife. Rabbis only argued about what were the legitimate grounds for divorce, not whether it was lawful. It was easy and common even among the leaders. So is it unlawful? No!

- **People are more interested in their RIGHTS, not their RESPONSIBILITIES.**
- **The gospel is not about BEHAVIOR modification without HEART transformation.**
- **The faith without righteous behavior is mere empty PROFESSION, not real SALVATION.**

What does Jesus say about Marriage?

1. God's DESIGN for marriage works but it is RISKY. (v 6-8)

"This church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

"But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant." Malachi 2:14

*"And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" **4** He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, **5** and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? **6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:3-6*

- **Marriage is successful when two FALLIBLE people trust and follow one INFALLIBLE God.**

God alone has ultimate authority to define the marital relationship.

2. God LOVES marriage and is an ACT of God.

- **The marriage relationship MODELS the way God RELATES to His people.**

Sexual intimacy is only properly exercised and pursued within the confines of this marital relationship. Sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man and one woman, is clearly and expressly prohibited by the Lord."

"A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1 7:39

*"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?"
2 Corinthians 6:14*

*"In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. **24** And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and*

they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. 25 And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. 27 Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?" Nehemiah 13:23-27

- **MARRIAGE is for Christians and non-Christians, but it is God's will that His people should marry ONLY fellow BELIEVERS.**"

"We also believe that the marriage of believers is to illustrate the loving relationship of Christ and His church, with the husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church and the wife responding to her husband's loving leadership as the church responds to Christ."

3. God HATES divorce. (v 10-16)

And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?^[a] And what was the one God^[b] seeking?^[c] Godly offspring. So guard yourselves^[d] in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her,^[e] says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers^[f] his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless." Malachi 2:13-16

- **DIVORCE originated because of the HARDNESS of man's heart. (Matt. 19:8; Mk 10:5)**
- **ALL CASES of divorce and remarriage involve a DISRUPTION of God's ideal for the sexual relationship. (v 11-12)**

Jesus talks to his disciples: not only does he maintain that divorce is wrong. He declares that remarriage after divorce is even more wrong and labels it adultery. Jesus makes it very clear. If the Mosaic legislation on this issue had its roots in men's hardness of heart - willful defiance against God - then it cannot reflect God's will. Moses may have given laws to regulate divorce, but divorce is not God's will for marriage.

- **Divorce was NEVER God's WILL.**

Jesus gives one valid ground for divorce permitting it only where there has been unrepentant sexual sin (adultery) and Paul adds another in **1 Cor. 7:12-16** of desertion (abandonment) by an unbeliever which says, if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. **13** If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. **14** For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. **15** But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you[a] to peace. **16** For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

We all know someone who has either gotten a divorce or come from a family who's parents have divorced. 3/4 marriages end in divorce in today's society. Kids have traumatic encounters around holidays because of their split family. They need these traditions to build up a personal foundation but instead tears down their personhood. Men and Women's hearts are bruised, torn, fragile, closed-off, and have built a distrust toward any relationships including with God. It causes poverty, brokenness, pain and suffering because of the hardness of hearts. Jesus did not deny that hearts continue to be hard, and that divorce, though an evil, may sometimes be permitted.

I hope that our church can help mend relationships of families, spouses and individuals to a healthy state. I want to encourage that God never abandons us and we can trust Him, like what Jesus says in verse 15-16. Like small children, true believers who know they have nothing to bring and everything to receive. Receive Christ today and let him heal you!