

MARK 10:1-12 MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

INTRO

- Jesus now leaves His beloved Galilee, the home of His childhood and youth.
- It had been the center of His ministry, the place of His nurture and growth, family, friends and all those who were familiar to Him.
- Later as He drew nearer to His death, His heart reverted to Galilee, for he promised that when He was risen from the dead He would go ahead of His disciples and meet them there in Galilee.
- Did He recall His departure from heaven?

READ MK. 10:1-12

VS 1 *Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.*

- He travels south into Judea and to east side of the Jordan river.
- An area where John Baptist had preached about repentance, to flee from the wrath to come and of a baptism unto God.
- He journeyed toward the fulfillment of His mission, the completion of a multitude of prophecies, toward His approaching suffering and death.
- John Baptist also spoke and warned about sin, even the sin of adultery, charging Herod of it as he had taken his brother's wife for his wife.
- Even this far south from Galilee and Capernaum, the crowds knew of Him and hunger to hear Him
- As His custom was, He taught them, no concert, no entertainment, no great productions, He just taught the scriptures, yet multitudes came to Him.

VS 2 *The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him.*

- Here the Pharisees ask Him about divorce, and as Mark states this they did to test him. To try and trap Him
- If Jesus answered that yes it was ok to put away a wife, thus agreeing with how they interpreted Moses, He would then have opposed John the Baptist and Herod could have been justified to take his brother's wife.
- If Jesus said he agreed with John the Baptist, that it was unlawful to put away a wife, they then would have said that Jesus was in disagreement with Moses and the law

VS 3 *And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"*

- Jesus saw through their trap and does not fall for it. He answers their question with a question. "What did Moses command?"

VS 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her."

- **Deut. 24:1-4**
- Divorce had become so accepted, or perhaps I should say marriage had lost so much of its reverence.
- It became so frequent men could divorce their wives for the most trivial things, such as a bad meal, or a broken dish.
- In 1910 10% of marriages ended in divorce, by 1948 it was 25% and it was spoken by a renowned world historian at that time that if 25% of marriages in a nation failed the nation would soon cease to exist. We know now 50%.

VS 5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept."

- Jesus tells them the reason of Moses' allowance was due to the hardness of their hearts. But it was not God's original intention.
- Divorce was allowed due to the hardness of the heart, but it was not the ideal or the original intent.
- It was a concession on the part of God and Moses due to their hardness.
- They would not forgive even some of the smallest of insults, they were easily offended and I would suppose that some were looking for faults so they could be released from their marriage vow commitment.
- The woman was treated without feeling, without understanding, without compassion and without love.
- Their hearts were hardened toward their wives, and toward God as well.

VS 6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'

- Here now Jesus begins to really explain the law, the intention of God regarding marriage.
- He supersedes the precept of Moses and brings them back to the original intent of man and the covenant of marriage.
- This concession of Moses regarding divorce comes 2500 years after God had instigated marriage and its original design.
- We should notice several things in vs 6
- Jesus quotes from 1:27. He first emphasizes and establishes man's creation.
- First; Jesus refers to Genesis creation as the "beginning." No evolution. Was Jesus ignorant? NO.
- We have been made by God, not energized slime and time.
- He made human kind in only 2 genders, sexes. Not 3 or 30, not a mixture, but specifically, male and female.
- He created us so, it was His design, His idea. He did not leave it to man's choice. God had already established that at creation and at the point of conception.
 - **Ps. 139:13-15**
 - Job 10:8, Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity;
- God has not ceased to make man in His own image and likeness and make them male and female. He has not changed His original design or intention.

VS 7 & 8, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

- "For this reason." What reason?
- There is such a tremendous amount of meaning, pressure on this phrase. It hints at so much which is easily over looked with casual reading.
- The reason is that God created mankind perfect in two genders/sexes
 - **Gen. 2:18-25**
- designated by Him as male and female.
- God brought before Adam all creatures, and Adam found none for a helper, none that were compatible for him, no bird, or animal and no other man, only the woman was his complement and helper.
- When complement is used as a noun the definition is "something that fills up, completes, or makes perfect.
- There was nothing in all creation that so perfectly reflected man's own person, than the woman God made, they complemented each other.
- Male and female, there is such an attraction there, there is the potential of such a union, a oneness, such a drawing to one another.
- Jesus means that in creation the two were to complement, support and complete each other to such a perfect degree, to make such a perfect union, that a man must leave his own father and mother who birthed him and cleave to his wife.
- "Leave" means to depart from, to forsake, or leave a person by ceasing to care for them. Husbands are to care for their wives, build a life and a home with them.
- To "Cleave" means to stick to, to glue to.
- Man, being the head of the woman is to leave his former attachment, those whom had birthed him, this cleaving is deeper than DNA.
- And in this leaving and cleaving His wife would follow the example of her man.
- God so made male and female so distinct that they together, joined as one, may best complete the whole person, the whole man and thus fulfill God's image and man's God ordained work on earth.
- If a man is to be joined to any, it is to be with a woman. And likewise, the woman to the man.
- As we see here, humanly speaking, there is nothing in all creation that fulfills or satisfies the need of relationship for a man than his wife.
- And there is nothing in all of God's creation that so fulfills and satisfies a woman than the relationship of her husband.
- God made them both individually, and different, yet as one piece that has been created in 2 different earthly vessels, yet to be one.
- One flesh, so united in purpose under God and the work He has given them to do that they act, move, function, think and execute as one person. one body, one being.
- Adam and Eve no longer living as two single individuals, with two separate lives, but having been joined together by God, they now live united like one.

- Living together, sharing together, functioning together, working together for the same goals.
- Not living as having 2 separate agendas, two separate lives being lived under 1 roof.
- Wives helping their husbands to reach their God give calling in Christ. (Gen 2:18)
- Husbands helping their wives enjoy and realize their equality and value as equal partners and heirs together with Christ, helping each other mature to the full stature of Christ.
- Both in what God called him to be and do.
- Learning and living no longer as 2 but as one. A picture of oneness and togetherness as Christ and His Church.
- Before we leave these verses let's notice the words "and they were both naked and were not ashamed." Gen. 2:25.
- Symbolically this "not being ashamed," means more than the lack of clothing, but of relationship.
- Are you ashamed of something your spouse might find out about you?
- They were open to one another, nothing between, transparent.
- They were honest and all their intentions were wholesome and good for both.
- there was nothing they did, or said that would cause them to be ashamed.
- They did not have secret thoughts, things hidden from one another, they were truly one with each other. They were to live the truth of 1 **Cor. 13: 4-8a**
- NOW to the single ones, in 1 Cor. 7;7 Paul speaks of singleness as a gift from God and in VS 17 Paul says God has called each person to either marriage or singleness. But remain as called, abide with God. vs. 24
- Paul says in vs. 32; that those who are unmarried care for the things of the Lord and are not distracted as the married Christians are with earthly responsibilities and cares.
- There is not the competition for their time and labors from a spouse or family. They are more able to give themselves to the work and giving of God.
- In vs. 29, Paul says even those who have wives should be as those who had none because the time is short.
- Meaning that we all, single or married should give ourselves as much as possible to the work of building the Kingdom of God, not only our little temporary kingdom.

VS 9 *Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*

- Because of this oneness which God has designed and created for them, this supernatural joining together let no man, no situation, no difficulty, no interest separate them.
- The phrase "joined together" means to be yoked together, to fasten to one yoke, that is working as one, harnessing efforts and strengths together for a greater result. To do what could not be done by one.
- Separate means to depart from, to separate oneself, to divide.
- Now here is the searching question; with this statement from the lips of God the Son regarding our oneness our togetherness, and the danger of separatings, are we not commanded to protect this oneness with all our strength and resolve?
- Then let us ask ourselves, what in our marriage has caused us to be separated in oneness, purpose, calling, in vision and in our God ordained mission?
- Has our jobs, pleasures, worldly pursuits, activities, youth sports? You fill in the blanks.
- It was the intention of God for fathers and mothers to raise and train up their children in such a way so that the children would follow them, walking in their footsteps into God's calling for their parents.
- Not the parents follow the children into whatever.
- The phrase "let no man separate." The word "let" shows that there is somethings we must resist, things that will cause us to begin to separate, the pressure to separate.
- A dividing of our devotions for the calling God has called us to and our devotion for one another.
- There is an intensity in that little word "let."
- It is sad that in some of our marriages this has gone on for years and has now become the norm, a deadly norm.
- There is a way back. It will take a choice, a resolve, a painful cutting off of the precious foot, hand and a plucking of the eye.
- We must be intentional.
- But to live together as one according to the design and purpose of God is a great treasure here and a great reward in glory.

CONCLUSION:

- Marriage is to be a microcosm of the kingdom of God, of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church.
- This is why it is so under attack.
- Don't let the attacks be successful, resist the devil, do not be ignorant of his devices. Stand strong in the Lord.
- Win back any oneness lost, and ground lost, for the glory of God.

VS 10 *In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter.*

VS 11 *So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her.*

VS 12 *And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."*