

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 44

2016 VISION: *Faithful with little things!*

Scriptures for Today: Mark 10:1-12 – Jesus speaks on marriage and divorce

Title of Today's Message: **Does God hate divorce? -- Let's talk about marriage first ...**

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned how Jesus feels about those who **OFFEND** His children, that Jesus wants everyone on planet earth to avoid **HELL** at all costs, and how we are the **SALT** of the earth who must have peace one with another. Today, we will hear **directly from Jesus** on the topic of marriage and **DIVORCE**. There are very few topics that rival this one in terms of **controversy** and **misunderstanding**. However, Jesus speaks very **plainly** and **clearly** in our passage this week. There are many people who have been divorced who have at times been treated like **SECOND** class citizens in God's **CHURCH**. *"My brethren, these things ought not so to be!"*

PREACHING NOTES

1. The Pharisees **tempted** Jesus with a question as to **what was lawful** concerning **DIVORCE**.

- ✓ The Pharisees (**like their father the devil**) were always seeking to accuse and tempt Christ.

John 8:44

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do..."

Genesis 3:1

"Now the serpent was more subtil...And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said...?"

Matthew 19:3

"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"

NOTE

The Pharisees do not have a right heart, and they are not looking for instruction on divorce. In Mt 19:3, we get more details on their question – *"for every cause"* (a.k.a *for any reason*).

- ✓ And He answered and said unto them, *"What did **Moses** command you?"*

Mark 10:4

"And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away."

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

"When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house."

Matthew 5:31

"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him...a writing of divorcement:"

NOTE

The Bible records that Moses (*Holy Spirit*) made a provision in the law whereby a man could divorce his wife if he *"found some uncleanness in her."* History records that the Jews had two opinions as to how this worked out in *"real life."* One said it **meant** only for the cause of fornication and adultery. The liberal (prevailing) opinion said a man could put his wife away for many reasons including burning dinner, finding someone more attractive, having hair uncovered in public, being quarrelsome, making disrespectful comments related to your parents, etc. Clearly, they were **using divorce** as a **"tool"** for their own selfish lusts!

- ✓ And Jesus answered and said, *"For **the hardness of your heart** he wrote you this precept."*

Matthew 19:8

"He said unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."

Malachi 2:16

"For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD...take heed...that ye deal not treacherously."

NOTE

They took a provision of Scripture designed to protect the innocent and **used it** to their own advantage. **They were destroying the fabric of society** – by making marriage *"cheap"*.

2. Jesus – being so wise – answers their **question on divorce** by talking about **MARRIAGE first**.

- ✓ Jesus said, “**But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.**”

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image...male and female created he them.”

NOTE The institution of marriage was created by God when He made man and woman. Marriage is between one man and one woman. If you have a problem with that, take it up with God.

- ✓ Jesus said, “**For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife. And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.**”

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31 “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

NOTE Jesus predates the law of Moses and speaks of God’s original intent for marriage. From the beginning, God designed for a man and a woman to **become one in marriage** – a covenant with God – for life. It was designed to be permanent. Adam did not have earthly parents!

- ✓ Jesus then said, “**What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**”

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.”

Malachi 2:14-15 “Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because **the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth**, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she **thy companion**, and **the wife of thy covenant**. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. **And wherefore one? that he might seek a godly seed...take heed...let none deal treacherously**”

NOTE Why make one? **That he might seek a godly seed**. The purpose of marriage is for **2** (a man and a woman) to become **1** that together they might bring God more glory by reproducing **sons of God** – physically first (Adam/Eve), and spiritually now (in Christ – the church age).

3. Privately, Jesus taught the disciples that divorce was **sin** (with *significant consequences*) and should **not** be seen as an **OPTION** when preparing to enter into **a life-long marriage covenant**.

- ✓ Jesus said, “**Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery.**”

Matthew 5:32 “I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication”

Matthew 19:9 “And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication”

1 Corinthians 7:12 “If any **brother** hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased...let him not put her away”

1 Corinthians 7:13 “And the **woman** which hath an husband that believeth not...pleased...let her not leave him”

1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”

NOTE Please do not take me out of context! The Scriptures are very clear – **God still allows for divorce in some cases** – but the goal is life-long covenant! We **should** be thinking this way...

MEN “**God has called me with an irrevocable calling to lay down my life for 1 specific woman** all the days of her life and to serve her unconditionally, whether she deserves it or not.”

LADIES “**God has called me with an irrevocable calling to lay down my life for 1 specific man** all the days of his life and to serve him unconditionally, whether he deserves it or not.”

A TIME OF DECISION – It is **no coincidence** that you were here today to hear a message **from God**...

- ❖ What did **God speak to you about** today through His Word? **Repent, if needed, and obey Jesus Christ.**