

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 33: What God Has Joined Together

## **Mark 10:1-12 (NLT) *Discussion about Divorce and Marriage***

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus left Capernaum and went down to the region of Judea and into the area east of the Jordan River. Once again crowds gathered around him, and as usual he was teaching them.

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”

<sup>4</sup> “Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”

<sup>5</sup> But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts. <sup>6</sup> But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation. <sup>7</sup> ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, <sup>9</sup> let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

<sup>10</sup> Later, when he was alone with his disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again. <sup>11</sup> He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery.”

## **Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> “When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then 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 of his house, and she departs out of his house, <sup>2</sup> and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, <sup>3</sup> and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, <sup>4</sup> then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.”

## **Matthew 19:8-9 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

## **1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.

## **1 Corinthians 7:12-14a (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a fellow believer has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. <sup>13</sup> And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living

with her, she must not leave him. <sup>14</sup>For the believing wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the believing husband brings holiness to his marriage.

**In Christ, any heart or marriage can be redeemed.**

**1) The Church must continue to hold up marriage as a sacred institution.**

**God defines marriage as a life-long heterosexual relationship between one man and one woman.**

**Marriage should never be entered into hastily or lightly.**

**When we struggle or falter, we should always reach out for help.**

**We should employ all our resources to rescue and restore marriages.**

**Those who are married have a responsibility to guard their hearts.**

**2) It's best to take Jesus' position on the matter: God hates divorce.**

**We should never advocate for nor celebrate divorce.**

**Malachi 2:14-16 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup>You cry out, "Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?" I'll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows. <sup>15</sup>Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup>"For I hate divorce!" says the Lord, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."

**The Four Horsemen of Divorce: Criticism, Contempt, Defensiveness, and Stonewalling**