

Jesus Teaches on Marriage & Divorce

September 15, 2024; Text: Mark 10:1-12

Introduction:

Big Idea: Jesus brings _____ by directing questioners to God’s design, purpose and plan for human flourishing. Let Jesus guide you through life’s biggest questions.

#1- A dismissal of God’s design leads to _____ and the trivialization of marriage (1-5)

- Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem helping teach his disciples his true identity (Mark 8, 9, 10)

Failure to understand WHO JESUS IS always leads to a _____.

- Jesus’ answer to their “test” question was directing them back to the Bible.
 - **The best answer to your biggest questions is always found in God’s Word.**
- What Jesus thought and taught about _____ shaped his attitude toward divorce and a bunch of other related topics.

#2- Understanding God’s design for marriage is the path to _____ (6-9)

- Marriage was created by God and was rooted in _____.
 - Jesus affirms what Genesis states as the two-part sexuality of humankind.
 - This two-part sexuality reflects the harmony and relationality of the _____.
 - This two-part sexuality supplies the foundation for the different _____ and _____ of men and women.
 - There **is** _____ between male and female but **no** _____ in their humanity, image-bearing capacity, purpose or blessing (Genesis 1:28)
- The essence of marriage is _____.
 - It is a unique joining of two people into one entity.
 - Literally means enter into an agreement, “to make a covenant”
- The purpose of marriage is _____.
 - This statement, “It is not good that the man should be alone” **WAS MADE BEFORE SIN.**
 - The ache of loneliness is the one ache we have that does not arise from sin.
- The pattern for marriage is _____ reenactment.
 - KEY CONCEPT: God designed marriage—and everything that goes with it—**to give us a taste of his love.**
 - Paul quotes Jesus in Ephesians 5:31-32.
 - The “mystery” of the gospel is unveiled in the marriage relationship.
- The permeance of marriage: “What God has joined together, let not *mankind* separate.”

#3 Jesus’ answer to the question posed by the Pharisees (4-5; 10-12; Matthew 19:8-12)

- Jesus traced the cause of divorce to a “hardness of heart.”
 - Two understandings of marriage in that day
 - Consumer relationship
 - Covenant relationship
- Jesus’ response recorded in Matthew 19:8-12
- The allowance for divorce
 - Matthew 19:10 “except for sexual immorality”
 - 1 Corinthians 7 Paul seems to use the same logic to point to desertion. In the case of desertion “the believer is not enslaved (no longer bound)”

Truth in Action:

- Purpose in your heart to let God's Word guide your life and decisions making. ***Surrender your life to God's plan.***
- Guard your heart against stubbornness. ***Ask God for his conviction of sin and protection from it!***
- Appreciate God designing us for relationship. ***Make it your aim to find your ultimate joy in God alone.***

CONNECT CARD NEXT STEP:

#1- God designed marriage—and everything that goes with it—to *give us a taste of his love*. **Live your week thinking much of God's love for you.**

#2-How can we help you and pray for you?

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Discuss a tense family situation that led to your own personal growth.

1. Read Mark 10:1-5

- What do we learn about the root issue behind divorce? Describe where it comes from.
- How can God use conflict to teach us things about our own “hardness of heart”?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 and write down how you tell when God has softened our hearts?

2. Read Mark 10:6-12. Think about God's design for marriage

- “Two become one.” What does that imply?
- “What God has joined, let not man separate”. What does that mean?
- Discuss our tendency to want to escape too quickly and lose what God may be teaching us.

3. A short study on “the fool” in the Bible:

- The biblical definition has the added dimension of “someone who disregards God's Word.”
- Ecclesiastes 10:2 A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.
- The following is a partial list of some characteristics of a fool from the book of Proverbs: a fool hates knowledge (Proverbs 1:22), takes no pleasure in understanding (Proverbs 18:2), enjoys wicked schemes (Proverbs 10:23), proclaims folly (Proverbs 12:23), spurns a parent's discipline (Proverbs 15:5), speaks perversity (Proverbs 19:1), is quick-tempered (Proverbs 12:16), gets himself in trouble with his proud speech (Proverbs 14:3), mocks at sin (Proverbs 14:9), is deceitful (Proverbs 14:8), and despises his mother (Proverbs 15:20). A foolish child brings grief to his or her parents (Proverbs 17:25; 19:13). A foolish man commits sexual immorality (Proverbs 6:32; 7:7–12). A foolish woman tears down her own house (Proverbs 14:1).
- Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your design of creation and seeking to teach me about your love. Amen.

Resources: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/humanity-male-female/>

G. Campbell Morgan, *The Gospel of Mark*; R. C. Sproul, *The Gospel of Mark*; Tim Keller, *Christ the King*; Life Application Bible Commentary, *Mark*; Jason Meyer, *Mark for You*; Gaebelstein (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Mark*; Tim & Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*; John Mark Comer, *Loveology*