

Mark 10:1-12 “Marriage According to the Servant”

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Genesis 2:18-25

Today we are going to talk about a very sensitive subject. It is important because if we take today's section of scripture without comparing it with others, we can get very confused. I also said when we were in this account in Matthew that we would do this when we can. This story is only in these two places, so we are going to use both to expound on it.

The wonderful thing about doing verse by verse teaching is that no subject will be ignored. We teach from Genesis to Revelation and know that we have everything we need for life and godliness. Today we are going to be talking about marriage and divorce. Let me make it clear that there is no cookie cutter answer to every problem in every marriage and divorce. Each one needs to be counseled and prayed through. We need to always remember we are all sinners in various stages of growth and will make mistakes that need to be and will be washed in the blood of Christ. We always err on the side of grace in these issues. I also know when we follow the scriptures, we will find answers and wisdom that we need to navigate through the muddy waters of relationships. There are enough clear teachings that help us with the big questions so we can have parameters to guide us. So, with that said let's move into our study today.

Mark 10:1

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.

Last week we were with them in the city of Capernaum. We get some more context from Matthew.

Matthew 19:1

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

Notice it say's "He departed from Galilee"? Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem as He has been telling His disciples. This area gives us the path He is taking to get there. * You can see on this map that He is taking one of the three pilgrim routes to Jerusalem. That is why there are large crowds because it is close to the Passover, and they are on their way their too. We know this because by the end of this chapter he is going through Jericho on His way.

In the crowd, of course, where some of those that did not believe in Him...

Mark 10:2

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

Again, we get a point of context in Matthew...

Matthew 19:3

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”

This will make sense in a minute, but the test was to get Him to take a side so to cause division. I get it all the time. The big one lately is “Is the Bible we have today really God’s word?”. Don’t you know that they rejected books and removed them on purpose! What about the translations missing verses! Most of the time these people are only trying to cause division. Why? To keep them from hearing the truth! Jesus is teaching the truth, and the Pharisees don’t want to hear it! Jesus is smart here and we can learn from His answer...

Mark 10:3

And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?”

In other words, “What does Gods word say?” That is how you and I are to end every argument. Period. Of course, people who will not listen to the clear teaching of what it says will say things like “That’s not what it means” or “This person says this” or “Yeah, but”

They do answer with the Bible...

Mark 10:4

They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her.”

Notice they use the classic of taking a verse out of context. We need to see it as the rest of the story is assumed by Jesus that they know it.

What Moses Said

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife, 3 if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Now we have to ask ourselves what an “Uncleanness” is, right?

Uncleanness, Heb. ‘erwah #6172

Lit. Nakedness, an idiom for sexual impurity

But notice the first part of His answer...

Mark 10:5

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

Jesus here confirms a rule that we talked about as we taught through the law. The law was given to Israel to govern how they treated one another and often times it deals with things that God does not condone. Things like divorce and slavery. But what the law does say is, since you are going to do these things anyway, you better make sure you do in a way that is right. It is a governor and a schoolmaster to keep our evil sinful ways in check. Jesus calls it the hardness of our hearts. In order for them to see God’s original intent He has to go before the fall when God instituted marriage...

Mark 10:6-9

“...But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘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. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Jesus did not take sides. The Pharisees fell into two camps. Those that felt that said uncleanness could be if your wife burns the toast and another only for sexual misconduct. But

those are all man's plans and not God's. This, of course, left the disciples confused. And us to for that matter, as divorce is happening all the time. So, they had to ask...

Mark 10:10-12

In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Wow, that seems pretty extreme on its own! But Jesus is expecting them to know what the Law said that we just read. We do have a point on Matthew that helps us...

Matthew 19:9

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Now before we move on you need to understand that this answer is to those that are still living under the law. It not saying that if you have been divorced you can never remarry. We will see that in a minute but let us look at what the disciples answered in Matthew...

Matthew 19:10

His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

Boy, what a bunch of knuckleheads! I sure hope their wives weren't there to hear that! But, think about it, if that is really the case as we look around at the divorces and all the pain and suffering that goes along with it, we would say the same. Jesus's answer is interesting...

Matthew 19:11-12

But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

Now the reason I took the time today to do just this one story is that the issue does not end right here. This was a problem in the early church and Paul had to clarify these things with them, and to us.

Paul Explains Christian Marriage

1 Corinthians 6:18-7:16

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a

price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:

It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. 7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; 9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

The thing we need to make clear. If you are in a marriage of abuse whether physical or verbal, you are not to stay there and be a punching bag. You need to, as soon as you can, separate. Not divorce, separate. Our desire should always be reconciliation. Sometimes that is not possible and, in many cases, they fall into the camp of what we read above that they are an unbeliever that departs. We need to remember that marriage is a precious thing that God gave us before the fall and needs to be respected in that manner. We know what God says about this issue...

How God sees it
Malachi 2:13-16

And this is the second thing you do:

You cover the altar of the Lord with tears,
With weeping and crying;
So He does not regard the offering anymore,
Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

14 Yet you say, "For what reason?"
Because the Lord has been witness
Between you and the wife of your youth,
With whom you have dealt treacherously;
Yet she is your companion
And your wife by covenant.

15 But did He not make them one,
Having a remnant of the Spirit?
And why one?
He seeks godly offspring.
Therefore take heed to your spirit,
And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

16 "* For the Lord God of Israel says
That He hates divorce,
For it covers one's garment with violence,"
Says the Lord of hosts.
"Therefore take heed to your spirit,
That you do not deal treacherously."

Why does God hate it so much? Do you not understand that the picture of Man and Wife is a picture of Christ and the Church? Think about this, could it be the closest thing to heaven on earth? Let's close with what Paul said about it in Ephesians

The Church is the Bride of Christ Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Let us remember that all of this is under the grace of God. A divorce doesn't stop you from experiencing God's love or enjoying what God has for you. All of our sin, all of it, is washed

in the blood of Christ and that includes divorce, even if it was your fault. God is not holding the law over you to beat you up with it but wants you to see the original intent so we can grow by it. We live, we learn, we move on. God's grace is sufficient for us.

But the question is do you have it?