

## Mark 10:1-12

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.

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

<sup>3</sup> And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

<sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses permitted *a man* to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss *her*."

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

<sup>10</sup> In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same *matter*. <sup>11</sup> So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery

against her.<sup>12</sup> And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

1. After teaching on how to deal with one another, Jesus goes to Judea (Perrea)
  - a. Crowds gather
  - b. He teaches them**
    - i. His heart is to give people instruction
      1. More than anything, our hearts need direct instruction from the Word of God about
        - a. His love
        - b. His ways
        - c. His plans
  - c. He heals them (Matthew)
    - i. It's the proper sequence
      1. When I learn and understand God's ways
      2. I believe and receive my healing
        - a. Emotional, physical...
2. He's interrupted by the Pharisees who are trying to trap Jesus

3. Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?
  - a. **Matthew:** "Is it right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?"
  
4. If there was a hot topic of the day, this was it
  - a. This discussion is happening Perrea where Herod Antipas ruled
    - i. The one who took John's head for speaking against Herod's unlawful divorce/remarriage
      1. Having Jesus oppose Herod would be a dream for the Pharisees
  - b. The people Jesus ministered to were divided on this issue
    1. Not just Herod, the people will turn on Him
  
5. Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?
  - a. They're trying to trap Him & discredit His ministry
  
  - b. They wanted Him to say things that would alienate Him from the people. Since divorce was popular among the leaders, it was

popular among the people, the men especially. And they wanted Jesus to say what they knew He believed because they had heard it before. They wanted Him to say that divorce was wrong and they wanted Him to condemn everybody that was divorced and that would set Him against the leaders and against the people, irritate the people and thus Jesus would not be nearly so popular.

**(McArthur)**

6. In their day, divorce was so common, that to keep their courts from being flooded with divorce proceedings, a man had to simply say 3 times, I divorce you and give her a bill of divorcement  
**(Courson)**

7. Jesus doesn't take their bait or give an opinion  
a. That is extremely wise

## **I. He refers to the original**

1. He looks back to the law of God
  - a. He returns to the original picture that God drew

b. Marriage is a picture designed by God to illustrate something much greater

**i. God's marriage to His people**

ii. **Is 54:5** For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

2. This picture became so distorted

a. Although God says that He's married to His people, the connection was not made

i. No one really understood the sanctity of marriage

1. How it's a reflection of God's relationship with us

3. In the process of time, different Rabbi's wrote on the issue of marriage & divorce:

4. **Rabi Shammai** – conservative, no divorce except for adultery

5. **Rabi Hillel** - liberal, Divorce was ok

a. Speaking loudly to your husband & the neighbors hear

- b. Too much salt on the food
- c. Loosening her hair
- d. Twirling in the street so that men see your ankles
- e. Speaking bad of her mother-in-law,
- f. Finding someone more attractive,
  - i. meant you were free to divorce and remarry
  - ii. These were loophole to accommodate their sinful ways

- 6. People are still looking for loopholes today
  - a. We want to know
    - i. Is divorce considered sin?
    - ii. What are grounds for divorce?
    - iii. Is remarriage ok?

## **7. Jesus responds with:**

- a. **What did Moses command?**
- b. The law is the perfect standard
  - i. It's how we measure our life
    - 1. Is there any provision for divorce in the law?

8. **Deut 24:1** 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<sup>2</sup> when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's *wife*,<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> *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

**9. This is not a command for divorce:**

- a. Scholars believe that the uncleanness refers to indecent behavior
  - i. Tendency toward improper behavior
    - 1. Not adultery but very close
- b. The only command is that if a divorce occurs because of her indecent behavior, she's not

allowed to go back to her first husband if she remarries

c. Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

i. To warn them that marriage is serious to God

d. Because of the pagan culture they lived in, God wanted to protect them from swapping wives and being defiled

e. More so, it protected the wife from being discarded like an object

10. He takes them to the original picture

11. From the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female

12. **Genesis 1:27**: So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

a. Both man and woman are created in God's image

i. They are equal in their value



13. This is revolutionary in their time and culture
  - a. Giving women an equal platform
    - i. She's not an object to be toyed with
    - ii. She is an equal partner in life
  
14. **Genesis 2:24**, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh"
  
15. Jesus takes them back to God's original intent. To show what a husband and wife look like
  - a. In the glorious mystery of **1+1=1**
  
  - b. God's original design**
    - i. Man leaves his parents and joined to his wife till his death
  
  - c. 2 individuals becoming one
    - i. Loving each other
    - ii. Covering each other
    - iii. Walking through life together
  
  - d. Adam had one wife
  - e. Abraham had Sarah
  - f. Isaac had Rebecca
  - g. Joseph had Asenath

i. That was God's design

16. These pictures demonstrate God's marriage to us

a. Before mentioning the church and faith and how to live godly, God showed a picture what marriage looks like

## **17. God was demonstrating**

### **a. Love unconditional, redemption eternal, covering perpetual**

i. When humanity fell in the garden, God did not create another people for himself, but He stuck it out with us

1. He could have wiped us out and started over.

a. He could have divorced us

i. Because everything He created was perfect

ii. There was no reason to sin

b. He chose to stay with us

ii. **Hosea 2:19** "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me

In righteousness and justice, In loving-kindness and mercy;

- iii. **Hosea 1:2** "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord."
- iv. **Jer 3:14** Return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for I am married to you"
  - 1. This is love unconditional

## **b. Redemption eternal**

- i. In Eastern cultures, the groom has to bring a price of a dowry for the bride
- ii. The price Jesus paid was eternal verifying His love and paying for our sins to atone for us before a Holy God
- iii. **1 Cor 6:20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's

## **c. Covering perpetual**

- i. Despite how I view myself, God covers me with perpetual righteousness
  - 1. My weaknesses
  - 2. My lack
  - 3. My inconsistency
  
- ii. **Ezekiel 16:8** "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God.
  
- iii. **Is 61:10** I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments

**18. This is what marriage is to look like**

**19. The two shall become one flesh, so then they are no longer two, but one flesh**

a. **1 Cor 6:17** But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

b. **1+1=1**

## **20. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate**

### **21. No wonder in Malachi God say's:**

22. "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." **Malachi 2:16**

b. He doesn't hate the divorcee

c. He hates how one person is split in half

1)It's painful

1. Painful for the husband/wife

2. Painful for the children

3. Painful for the entire family unit

23. Because marriage represents our relationship with God, the enemy tries his best to distort that picture

a. Divorce becomes an easy out to a covenant we've made

- b. The wealthy usually have prenuptial agreements drafted before the wedding

24. When we see marriage from the perspective of

- a. Love unconditional
- b. Redemption eternal
- c. Covering perpetual
  - i. We'll realize how sacred this is
  - ii. People won't be so quick to file for divorce
- d. There is a selfless love in place
- e. There is a price to pay
- f. I'm to cover the weaknesses and not expose them

25. The disciples ask again on the same matter

26. They don't get it

- a. If a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery
- b. If a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery

27. Matthew adds that sexual immorality is the only grounds for divorce

28. The 12 say, it's better not to get married

29. Sometimes that is the kind of despair when you look at perfection

a. What's the use?

30. Looking at this picture is the best way to answer these questions about marriage and divorce

a. When I see how God views me, I have a better perspective on marriage & life

31. Truth is all of us are guilty in one way or another

32. **James 4** Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

33. That's why the Cross was necessary

a. Because we are all guilty

34. The Cross takes care of all my sins and washes me clean