

THE PROBLEM OF DIVORCE (Mark 10:1-12)

November 17, 2024

TEXT—Mark 10:1-12

MAIN IDEA—Through this text on divorce and marriage, Jesus reveals man's sinfulness and our deep need for God's mercy through Christ.

THE PHARISEES ATTACK (Mk. 10:1-2)—Following His ministry in Galilee, Jesus left Capernaum and came to the Trans-Jordan area, also known as Perea. While in this area the Pharisees came to Jesus with a goal to discredit and destroy the Lord and His ministry.

Mk. 6:17, 18

One taught by the great Rabbi Hillel taught that a man could divorce his wife for any indecency He found in her, based on [**Deut. 24:1-indecency**]. Those who held this view permitted a man to divorce his wife for anything. This was the lenient & popular view. The opposing view taught by the great Rabbi Shammai, taught that divorce was limited to only gross indecency (sexual immorality).

Mt. 19:3

Jer. 17:9-10

THE LORD'S WISE RESPONSE (Mk. 10:3-9)—While the Pharisees attempted to trap Jesus, the LORD answered their question by redirecting them to the scriptures penned by Moses in the Law. Then He went further back and spoke to God's ideal and original design for marriage.

V3-5—Jesus asked, 'What did Moses command you?' Yet the Pharisees avoided the question by stating what Moses permitted, which was allowing a man to legally divorce his wife by providing a certificate of divorce (**Duet. 24:1; V4**). This was far from God's ideal and only permitted because of the people's hardness of heart.

1 Cor. 7:15

In V6-9—Jesus declares God’s ideal for marriage by quoting Genesis (See V6-9).

>God’s design for marriage is one man with one woman committed to each other in a solemn covenant vow to be one flesh for life (**Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:4-6**).

>The one flesh relationship is a beautiful union of body, mind, heart and soul which grows over time as a husband and wife learn to love, respect and care for one another throughout life. The physical union is immediate upon marriage yet the heart and soul develops throughout the seasons of life. This union is most clearly seen in children bearing the image of their parents. Marriage is the ultimate reflection of Christ’s relationship to His church (**See Eph. 5:21-33**).

THE DISCIPLE’S PRIVATE Q & A WITH THE LORD (V10-12)--Jesus directly answered the question raised, showing the seriousness of divorce for unbiblical reasons. Casually divorcing a spouse for sinful reasons, as the common practice was at this time, then remarrying leads a man or woman into adultery. **The disciples felt the weight of this exclaiming in [Mt. 19:10; Prov. 18:22- is still true]! When we take the whole counsel of God in scripture it is clear that divorce for Biblical grounds (such as sexual immorality or abandonment by an unbeliever) are free to remarry if God wills.**

MEMORY VERSE—Lam. 3:22-23

>King David (**Ps. 51; 32**).

2 Sam. 11-13; Ps. 32:1-7

>Jesus ministered to the Woman at the well (**Jn. 4:1-29**). **Jn. 4:17-18**

>Jesus showed incredible mercy to the Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery (**Jn. 8:1-11**).