

Mark Chapter 10

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I. Clear Teachings on Divorce

Mark 10:1 *And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.*

Mark 10:2 *And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.*

Chapter 10 marks the beginning of Christ's final journey to Jerusalem. On this occasion he went through Perea on the other side of Jordan. At this time the cross was only a short time away. Jesus comes to the coast of Judea and as had been the case in last few chapters, the great crowds gather around Him. He teaches them. This has always been a great need in people's lives from the beginning of time. We all need to learn about the Word of God. As had become customary, the Pharisees show up and begin to tempt Christ by asking him if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife.

Mark 10:3 *And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?*

Mark 10:4 *And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.*

It is always important to notice that when questions arose, Jesus always responded with 'thus saith the word of God'. So many times we want to use worldly knowledge to help people, and we find it is woefully lacking. To the Pharisees, Moses was sort of the highest authority on matters concerning the law. So Jesus asks them what did Moses say? They state that Moses allowed them to write a bill of divorcement.

Jesus taught the people who came. The Pharisees ask about divorce. As usual, it was not an honest question as they wanted to tempt and trap Christ. The discussion of marriage is why John the Baptist was beheaded. Mark 6:14-29.

They may have hoped that the answers of Jesus would get him in trouble also. The Jews were greatly divided on the subject of divorce. Some thought that a man could obtain a divorce for any reason, while others had a very different view. Jesus was bound to offend at least one of these two groups. He asks them what Moses commanded. In verse 4, their answer was based on what Moses wrote.

Deut. 24:1-4, And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Mark 10:5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

Mark 10:7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

Mark 10:8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

Mark 10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Jesus makes it clear that Moses allowed this precept of divorce due to the hardness of their heart. Moses never wrote that to encourage them to put away their wives, but he discouraged people from doing this. It never was, and never shall be, God's plan for a man and a woman who have become one in marriage. Jesus declares to them that God is the one who joins the two together, and what God has joined, no man should put it asunder.

I want to reiterate that Moses never commanded divorce, but it was permitted because of the hardness of the people's hearts. Jesus goes beyond Moses, back to the beginning.

Gen. 1:27, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen. 2:21-24, And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

When a man and a woman decides to marry, parents are to be left behind so that the husband can cleave unto the wife. There was no provision for man to marry a man or a woman to marry a woman. God's rules do not change even though society may change. Marriage makes the two one flesh. In verse 9, Jesus forbids divorce. In this He restores the original intent of marriage.

J. Vernon McGee said this about divorce and the law.

Actually, it was not Moses' intention nor was it God's intention for a man or a woman to get a divorce over some little picayunish excuse. However, in time, the religious rulers interpreted it so that the wife's burning the biscuits would be grounds for divorce.

Now our Lord goes back to that which is fundamental, and this is important to see. He turns it from a discussion of divorce to a discussion of marriage. And today that is the area into which we should move. I have so many questions from people asking about the grounds for divorce. When they are ready to get married, they never talk to the preacher. They are not interested in finding out whether he would approve or not; their only question is whether he will marry them. That is all they are concerned about.

The important thing to see here is that our Lord is going to discuss marriage with them. Notice how He handles it. He gives the reason God permitted divorce. It was because of sin that God granted divorce under the Mosaic Law.

Mark 10:10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

Mark 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

Mark 10:12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Jesus expounds upon his teachings on this subject later when the disciples come to him in the house later. Jesus tells them that for a man to put away his wife, and marry another, commits adultery against her. Same if a woman leaves her husband and marries another. In verse 10, the disciples privately the disciples ask for more information. The teaching is not difficult to understand, and is very simple. Divorce and remarriage results in adultery. Marriage should never be entered into lightly. Probably after salvation, there is no greater important decision that anyone makes in this life than choosing your mate. We who have this privilege should realize and embrace the importance of what the bible teaches about this sacred union.

Luke 16:18, Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Rom. 7:2-3, For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

I Cor. 7:10-15, And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

II Jesus Blesses Little Children

Mark 10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch

them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Mark 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Many people in our world today, look upon children as being a burden. In Bible times, children were counted a blessing.

Psa. 127:3-5, Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Psa. 128:3-4, Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

Young children brought for Jesus to touch. There were also infants brought according to Luke 18:15-16.

Many of the people brought their children that they might come to Christ and touch him. The disciples rebuke them and request that they not bring the children. But the Lord had a great love for little children, and tells them to suffer the little children to come unto Him. This greatly displeased the Lord that they did not want to let these children come unto him. Jesus was the greatest Father any child could ever have, and he takes them up and blesses them.

Jesus rebuked the disciples for them not letting the children come unto him. Adults must receive the things of God with simple child like faith. Christ takes these young children up in His arms and blesses them. What a tender and touching scene.

There is great importance in bringing children to Christ.

Children by nature are lost.

Psa. 51:5, Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psa. 58:3, The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Rom. 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Eph. 2:3, ...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

While a child will be saved until they reach the age of accountability, the odds of them accepting the Lord grows less and less as the years go by. Parents are responsible for teaching their children the scriptures.

Deut. 6:4-7, Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Prov. 22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Parents should take their children to Sunday School and Church services. If parents love their children, how can they neglect such an important duty.

Heb. 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This can make all the difference in the world, in the eternal destiny of children.

II Tim. 3:15, And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

III. The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is

none good but one, that is, God.

This rich young ruler comes to Christ and does not seek material blessings but is seeking spiritual help. For this he should be commended. Jesus wants his focus to be directly on the Heavenly Father and to make him understand that only God gives eternal life. His question was what shall I do to inherit eternal life. I wish more people today were as concerned about their eternal destiny. Jesus points the man to the Word of God.

Mark 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Mark 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Jesus quotes some of the commandments that we are to obey. This man claims that he has observed all of them from his youth. He apparently may have had too confidence in his flesh, since the scriptures are clear that none are without sin.

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

He called Jesus Good Master and his question is about eternal life. Like all men in the flesh, he supposed that he could do something to gain eternal life.

John 6:28-29, Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

This shows that the young ruler had a superficial view of sin and he also had a superficial view of Jesus Christ. We know this as he calls Him master, which means teacher. Sinners cannot be saved by the Law. If a law had been given that would have provided righteousness, Christ would not have had to come and lay down his life for our salvation. We need to learn the purpose of the Law.

Gal. 3:24, Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

There is none good but God. Of course Jesus was God and deserved the

title, but the man did not really realize this.

Rom 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The law is our schoolmaster to show us that we are guilty before God. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Man must see himself guilty under the law. The commandments show man his guilt. Sinners cannot be saved by the Law.

Gal. 2:16, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Eph. 2:8-10, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mark 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Note how that Jesus loved the young man there in verse 21. Jesus is not being unduly hard on him. He is simply pointing out that he has broken the very first commandment. He loved his money more than he loved God. All of the earthly possessions were more important to him than serving God. He had not kept the law perfectly for he did not love his neighbor as himself. He had been guilty of covetousness and when he was told to sell all his goods and give it to the poor this was too much.

Ex. 20:17, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

I Tim. 6:10, For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some

coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The young ruler's problem was that he had an idol (possessions) that he was unwilling to turn from.

Man is forbidden to have other gods.

Ex. 20:3, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Not everyone who would be saved has to sell all they have and give it away, but it is only those who have it as a god. Man must come to Christ and those who come to Christ will follow Him.

John 10:27, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

While some men will turn to Christ and be saved, some will cling to their idols.

Money is a wonderful servant, but it is an horrible master

IV. The Danger of Riches

Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

The Jews commonly looked on material prosperity as a sign of God's favor. Jesus says it is harder for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Usually men with great wealth are more concerned about making more money than being concerned about their eternal destiny. They don't comprehend this teaching and say "Who then can be saved?" It may

seem impossible in man's eyes, but Jesus can save anyone who will come to Him with a repentant heart and faith. The rich young man had gone away sad and lost. Christ uses this as a lesson for His disciples. Jesus was always teaching, and here he points out the hindrance of riches. "Hardly" means "with difficulty." It does not say that the rich cannot be saved, but their riches are an hindrance.

Prov. 18:11, The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

This astonishes the disciples. Christ reemphasized the hindrance of riches to them in verse 24. It would be well to remember that 90% of the American people are rich compared with the rest of the world and the people of Jesus' day. Houses, property, riches. Good incomes, pleasures, recreation, and dozens of other things hinder American people from being saved. It would take a miracle to put a camel through the eye of a needle. The disciples ask, "who then can be saved?" All are rich in something, so can anyone be saved? With men it is impossible to be saved. But praise God, with God salvation is possible.

Rom. 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

John Darby said this in his Commentary about salvation.

Peter did not understand how any one could be saved, if such advantages as the Jews possessed in their relationship to God (and which were specially present in the case of this young man) only barred up the way to the kingdom of God. The Lord meets him upon this very ground; for man in the presence of God was now the question As far as man was concerned, it was impossible — a second profound truth — with respect to his condition. Not only was there none good excepting God, but no one could be saved, according to what man was. Whatever advantages he might have as means, they would avail him nothing in his state of sin. But the Lord introduces another source of hope — "with God all things are possible."

IV. The Reward of Discipleship

Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mark 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Peter shows concern about rewards.

Matt. 19:27, Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

What they had they left? They had left their boats and nets. Some had left other occupations. All had left homes and families. In verse 30, Jesus tells them that they would receive an hundredfold "now in this time." This refers to the spiritual blessings received now. In the world to come will come the full reward.

Peter speaks and says that they have left all that they had to follow Jesus. Their "all" was truly not that much since they were humble fishermen. They gave up their occupation and their boat. Moses was a man who truly gave it all up to serve God. He could have been in line to become the next king and lived in a palace. Believe me... anything we give up for the Lord, we will be blessed many times over.

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.