

The Gospel According to Mark
Jesus. Servant. Master.

Lesson 38

Read Mark 10:1 – 12

Introduction: *The Pharisees saw divorce as a legal issue rather than a spiritual one. Jesus used this test as an opportunity to review God's intended purpose for marriage and to expose the Pharisees' selfish motives. They were not thinking about what God intended for marriage and were quoting Moses unfairly and out of context. Jesus showed these legal experts how superficial their knowledge really was.*

Application Study Bible

1. According to Matthew 19:1 – 2 and Mark 10:1 what two things did Jesus do when He came to the other side of the Jordan?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - The Bible teaches that the Word of God is alive and powerful. What understanding do we come to in regards to the activity of His Word in our lives found in 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12?

2. What did the Pharisees ask Jesus in Mark 10:2 and Matthew 19:3 about divorce?

Read Mark 10:3. Jesus directed them back to God Word by saying, “*What did Moses command you?*” The Bible is always the final authority and the final word for God’s people. We don’t need a second opinion when we know what God says in the Bible.

3. The Old Testament has much more to say about marriage than divorce. What did Moses say about divorce in Deuteronomy 24:1 – 4?

- How did the Pharisees answer the question Jesus posed to them in Mark 10:3? How did Jesus respond to their answer in Mark 10:5 and Matthew 19:8?

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said “*Because of the hardness of your heart?*”? How could your heart be hardened toward your spouse?

4. Jesus was saying that divorce among God's people was evidence of moral weakness and that it causes sclerosis of the heart. Anytime divorce comes in a family, it is because of 'hardness of the heart' on the part of one or both persons. What did Jesus say in Matthew 19:8 and Mark 10:6?

Jesus takes us all the way back to the Book of Genesis to the Garden of Eden where *He made them male and female*. The Lord brings out the obvious here, marriage is between a male and female not between a male with a male or a female with another female. God said between a man and women.

5. What insights do we learn about God instituting marriage in Genesis 1:26 – 28 and Genesis 2:18 – 25?
6. What did Jesus go on to say about marriage and divorce according to Mark 10:7 – 9 and Matthew 19:5 – 6?
7. What do we learn from the Apostle Paul's discernment about marriage and divorce in 1 Corinthians 7:1 – 16?

8. While Jesus and His disciples met privately in a house they asked Him about the matter concerning marriage and divorce. What did Jesus say to them according to Mark 10:10 – 12 and Matthew 19:8 – 9?

- Read Mark 10:9. What is God's perfect will regarding marriage and divorce?

- According to Mark 10:11 – 12 and Matthew 19:8 – 9 what is God's permissive will for divorce?

9. What words of encouragement do we learn from Proverbs 18:22?