

MARK 10

Teaching About Divorce

1 For ver. 1-12, see Matt. 19:1-9 And he left there and went Luke 9:51; 17:11; John 10:40; [Matt. 4:25] to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

2 And Pharisees came up and in order See John 8:6 to test him asked, Matt. 5:31 “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3 He answered them, “**What did Moses command you?**” 4 They said, Deut. 24:1-4 “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” 5 And Jesus said to them, “**Because of your** ch. 16:14; [ch. 3:5; 6:52; Heb. 3:8] **hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.** 6 **But** ch. 13:19; 2 Pet. 3:4; [Rom. 1:20] **from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them** Cited from Gen. 1:27; 5:2 **male and female.’** 7 Eph. 5:31; Cited from Gen. 2:24 **‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,** 10:7 Some manuscripts omit *and hold fast to his* **and** 1 Cor. 6:16; [Mal. 2:15] **the two shall become one flesh.’** So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 1 Cor. 7:10 **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”**

- **Crowds found Jesus, wherever he was they came**
 - **And Jesus would teach them, “as was his custom.”**
 - **He took advantage of teaching opportunities**
 - **We need to do the same**
 - **Teaching takes place in a variety of ways**
 - **Today we are teaching each other through these lessons lecture style**
 - **Some teaching comes through modeling the right way to do things**

- *Some of the best teachers I've had, never realized that they were teaching me, because I was just watching them live.*
- *Some teaching comes by working along beside each other*
 - *Working toward a common goal and having somebody more knowledgeable than we are is a great way to pick up understanding as we go.*
- *Again, the Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus in a corner by asking him tough questions*
 - *I would not be surprised if there were a man there close to Jesus who had been through a divorce, and they wanted to put Jesus on the spot by rebuking him.*
 - *I don't know that to be the case, but it would not surprise me.*
- *Jesus asked them about Moses' commandments*
 - *They answered correctly but Jesus was about to go back to the original purpose of marriage*
- *God ordained marriage, and he did not intend for it to end in divorce*
 - *Marriage was and is meant to be a picture of our commitment to Jesus*
 - *People too often start to think that marriage exists in order to make them happy*
 - *Although marriages can most definitely make us happy, that is not the primary purpose.*
 - *The primary purpose is to point people to Jesus.*

- **Husbands are told in Ephesians 5:22-33 to love their wives as Jesus loved His church.**
 - **And wives are told to submit to their husband's authority as they do Jesus' authority.**
- **Marriage like the Christian faith is not easy, but when both people focus is less on "their own happiness" and**
 - **more on His kingdom it is not so easy to bring to an end through divorce**

10And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11And he said to them, See Matt. 5:32 **"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12and 1 Cor. 7:11, 13 if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."**

- **Jesus takes His teaching a step further and explains that divorcing and remarrying also breaks one of the ten commandments**
 - **For context a practice had come up during Jesus' time that men would divorce their wives for very small or trivial reasons.**
 - **There are reasons given for divorce, but**
 - **"we're not in love anymore"**
 - **"she doesn't make me happy"**
 - **"I found somebody I love more"**
 - **None of these are reasons because they are all inwardly focused.**
 - **If somebody has divorced and already remarried**
 - **It doesn't make sense to again break vows and commitments made to God**

- ***When married, stay married, working diligently to make it point people to Jesus.***

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Let the Children Come to Me

13 [For ver. 13-16, see Matt. 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17] And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples [ver. 48] rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, [Matt. 18:3] ***“Let the children come to me; [ch. 9:39] do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 [John 3:3, 5] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not [Luke 8:13; James 1:21] receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”*** 16 And [ch. 9:36] he took them in his arms and blessed them, [Rev. 1:17] laying his hands on them.

- ***Further proof of Jesus’ love for everyone, even the “lowest” in society***
 - ***I don’t mean that people are lower than other, only that our societies place some people lower than others***
 - ***Jesus not only accepted having the children coming to him, but He also made them the example***
 - ***Children receive the kingdom of God correctly***
 - ***Children expect their parents for care givers to take care of them***
 - ***Feeding, clothing, loving them***
 - ***As time goes on and the child becomes older they realize that more and more people will let them down,***
 - ***While less and less people will take care of them out of love.***

- **Jesus will take care of us, without us having to earn his love, work for a place at His table**
 - **He gives to us despite our sins, not because of our works**
- **We would do well to remember what was required of us to eat at Jesus' table, and allow that to humble us, and not expect more from others to come join us.**
 - **Even if we think children or another group that can't do much, haven't earned a spot.**
 - **We must remember that we never have, and never will EARN a spot at His table.**

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The Rich Young Man

17 For ver. 17-30, see Matt. 19:16-29; Luke 18:18-30; [Luke 10:25-28] And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and See ch. 1:40 knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to [Matt. 19:16]; See Matt. 25:34 inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “**Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.** 19 **You know the commandments:** Rom. 13:9; Cited from Ex. 20:12-16; Deut. 5:16-20; [Matt. 5:21, 27] **‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’**” 20 And he said to him, “Teacher, [Phil. 3:6] all these I have kept from my youth.” 21 And Jesus, ver. 27; Luke 22:61; John 1:42; [ch. 3:5] looking at him, [John 11:5; 13:23] loved him, and said to him, “**You lack one thing: go,** Luke 12:33; [Luke 16:9; 19:8; Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35; 1 Tim. 6:18, 19] **sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have** Matt. 6:19, 20 **treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”** 22 [Ezek. 33:31] Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- *This young man comes to Jesus with a question, but notice the question is opposite of what Jesus had just taught them about children.*
- *He asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*
 - *It seems like a good question, and for a starting point it is a good question.*
 - *In Jewish tradition the oldest son would inherit a double portion of his father’s estate.*
 - *What did the son do in order to get this inheritance?*
 - *Nothing, he was born to his father and mother, they took care of him, literally keeping him alive until he was able to do so himself*
 - *There wasn’t anything that the oldest son did that made him more worthy to receive this.*
 - *This man’s question misses that childlike dependence, and the realization that there is nothing to be done that earns salvation for me.*
- *However, this man is on the right track.*
 - *He is asking questions that would put him on the right path to find answers.*
 - *He recognizes that Jesus is the Good Teacher*
 - *This rich man kneels before Jesus*
 - *It would be an error to not acknowledge how much this rich man did right*
- *Jesus pointed him to the commandments*
 - *But, notice which commandments Jesus listed first*
 - *He listed the last 6 first*

- *The last 6 are commandments that deal with our relationship with other people*
 - *The first 4 are about our relationship with God*
 - *The man doesn't claim to be perfect regarding these, but that from his youth, or the time he was able to determine right from wrong he had kept these*
- *Jesus loved him*
 - *This man who came hoping to accomplish for himself eternal life.*
 - *This man who had no doubt accomplished a great deal at a fairly young age*
 - *He hoped to secure eternal life as well*
 - *An admirable goal*
 - *But, even without realizing it the rich man was doing all of this from and for his pride*
 - *And Jesus loved him anyway*
- *Jesus called him to the first 4 commandments*
 - *No other gods, no idols*
 - *this man's wealth and possessions were very important to him*
 - *they were a sign of what he had accomplished*
 - *he had worked to acquire, he had diligently accumulated these things*
 - *He was able to take care of himself*
- *Except he wasn't*
 - *Wealth and material things are extremely dangerous to our spiritual well-being.*

- *They tend to draw us to the conclusion that we did something special and are self sufficient*
 - *Ignoring that we had no control over where we were born, who our parents were, nor what opportunities came our way*
- *We cannot allow the abundance of possessions nor the absence of them define who we are*
 - *Both the wealthy and the poorest among us need God and His mercy equally, but the wealthy are less likely to comprehend it*
 - *Because so much of their lives are taken care of without the need for God*
 - *Whereas the poorest among us are more likely to understand complete, childlike dependence on God is required.*
- *When Jesus called him to give them away and follow him, he could not.*
 - *It was his idol*
 - *Or lack of faith in Jesus's ability to provide for him*
 - *He had security in his things, and was unwilling to give it away.*
 - *Maybe he didn't think the poor deserved it as much as he did, after all he had worked hard for everything he had*
 - *The poor should work hard for themselves, right?*
 - *Again, the failure to see it all comes from God, and not so much from our own doing.*

23 And Jesus See ch. 3:5 looked around and said to his disciples, [1 Cor.

1:26]; See Matt. 13:22 **“How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to**

enter [See Matt. 12:28] the kingdom of God!” 24And the disciples [ver. 32] were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, [ch. 2:5 (Gk.); [John 13:33; 21:5] “Children, [Job 31:24; Ps. 49:6; 52:7; Prov. 11:28; 1 Tim. 6:17] how difficult it is [10:24 Some manuscripts add for those who trust in riches] to enter [See ver. 23 above] the kingdom of God! 25It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter [See ver. 23 above] the kingdom of God.” 26And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, [10:26 Some manuscripts to one another] “Then who can be saved?” 27Jesus [ver. 23] looked at them and said, [ch. 14:36; Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Jer. 32:17, 27; Luke 1:37] “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” 28Peter began to say to him, “See, [ch. 1:18, 20; Matt. 4:20, 22] we have left everything and followed you.” 29Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, [Luke 14:26] there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and [See ch. 8:35] for the gospel, 30who will not receive a hundredfold [Matt. 6:33] now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, [2 Cor. 12:10; 2 Thess. 1:4; 2 Tim. 3:11, 12; [John 15:20; Acts 14:22] with persecutions, and in [Matt. 12:32; Eph. 1:21; [Luke 20:35] the age to come eternal life. 31But [See Matt. 19:30] many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

- **Jesus terrified the disciples by saying these things**
 - ***I can imagine the disciples seeing this rich man coming and thinking, YES!***
 - ***We are going to stay in an inn tonight, and eat a fabulous meal***
 - ***This rich man is about to put us on the path to build an army, and campaign for Jesus the Messiah***

- *And Jesus not only didn't ask him for money, he told the man to give his money away and come to him with nothing.*
- *Can you imagine the shock on the disciples faces when this transpired?*
- *Then Jesus said that it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven*
 - *The men listening were used to thinking that God had blessed the rich among them*
 - *That the rich were rich because of God's favor*
 - *This was a radically different teaching that Jesus was introducing to them*
 - *And rightfully so they were concerned, thinking WHO CAN MAKE IT THEN?*
- *No one can make it*
 - *There is not one person on their own who could make it into heaven*
 - *Rich, poor, slave, free, male, female, and any other description we can think of.*
 - *Nobody can make it on their own*
 - *They MUST come to Jesus as a child would*
 - *Fully accepting His mercy, forgiveness, and grace without any hope of earning it, nor paying Him back.*
- *The first will be last, and the last will be first*
 - *Where we are and what we've done, does not matter,*
 - *it's where He is, and what He has done that rescues us.*