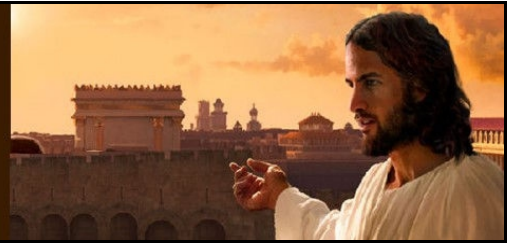


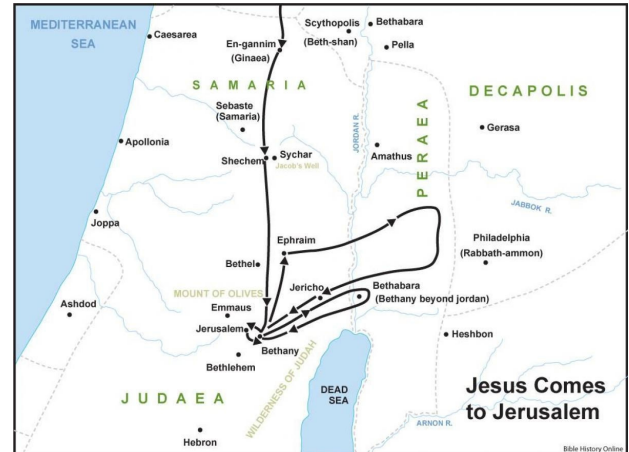
The Gospel According to Mark

What Jesus Has to Say about Marriage and Divorce Mark 10:1-12



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Introduction:



I. ANOTHER TRIP (vs. 1-2)

A. "the crowds gathered around Him" (vs. 1)

"Getting up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan"

"crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them."

B. "some Pharisees came up...to question Him" (vs. 2)

"Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him"

"and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife."

II. ANOTHER TEST (vs. 3-9)

A. The Answer from the Law (vs. 3-5)

"And He answered and said to them, 'What did Moses command you?'"

"They said, 'Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY.' "

(Deuteronomy 24:3)

"But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.'"

Matthew 19:8

It is necessary to distinguish in Scripture...

- 1) that which God commands
- 2) that which He counsels
- 3) that which He expressly permits
- 4) that which, out of His infinite patience, He tolerates or allows

B. The Answer from the Lord (vs. 6-9)

“ ‘But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’ ” (Genesis 1:27 with 2:24)

“ ‘so they are no longer two, but one flesh.’ ”

“ ‘What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.’ ”

Romans 7:1-3

Marriage is a contractual agreement:

- 1) it is a natural contract
- 2) it is a civil contract
- 3) it is a sacred contract

III. ANOTHER TEACHING OPPORTUNITY (vs. 10-12)

A. The Disciples' Perplexity (vs. 10)

“In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again.” (Matthew 19:10)

B. The Perplexity Dispelled (vs. 11-12)

“And He said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her...’ ”

Thomas Constable: “Mark’s omission of the exception clause that Matthew included was also due to his audience (cf. Matt. 5:32; 19:9). He did not want to draw attention to the exceptional case because to do so would weaken the main point, namely, that people should not divorce. Divorce was very common in the Greco-Roman world. Apparently Matthew included Jesus’ permission to divorce for fornication, because the subject of how to deal with divorce cases involving marital unfaithfulness was of particular interest to the Jews, his primary audience.”

“ ‘and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.’ ”

Matthew 19:11-12

Conclusion:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Food for Thought:

- 1) Why do you think divorce is so prevalent?
- 2) Why would the Pharisees be trying to test Jesus on this point?
- 3) What may be learned from the disciples’ perplexity?
- 4) What application(s) should be drawn from vs. 11-12?