

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 23: Mark 10:1-16

Biblical teaching on marriage and divorce (vv. 1-12)

Matt. 19:1-9

- This is the general area where John the Baptist ministered
- The Pharisees and Herodians are “allies” (3:6)
- The test could alienate the people, the rabbis, Herod, or any combination
- The pivotal OT passage is Deuteronomy 24:1ff (v. 4)
 - There were two schools of rabbinical thought regarding this:
 - Shammai – moral failure, such as adultery
 - Hillel – Moral as well as other causes, such as irritation or embarrassment
 - God’s gracious allowance of divorce is not the same as His approval
- Jesus appeals to the principle of “The more original, the weightier” (v. 6)
- The divine ideal of marriage is a permanent union (vv. 7-9)
- The Jews considered adultery to only be against another man, not the wife
 - Jesus provides a different picture of the sin (v. 11)
 - Roman law allowed women to divorce, but not Jewish law

What does Jesus mean by “the hardness of your heart”?

What challenge is Jesus giving to the Jews of His day in verse 9?

How do we reconcile Mark 10:11 with Matthew 5:31-32 and 19:9?

Children and the kingdom of God (vv. 13-16)

Matt. 19:13-15
Luke 18:15-17

- It was customary to bring children to an important man for his blessing
- Only Mark records Jesus’ indignant response to the disciples (v. 14)
- These seem to be small children (note Luke’s use of “infants”)
- Children have worth in God’s kingdom, unlike much of the world

What may cause the disciples to rebuke those bringing the children?

What physical and behavioral characteristics of children are in view in v. 15?