

Daily Bible Study

“...let not man separate” Part - 2 *Mark 10:1 - 12*

March 13 – March 19, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –As we return to our study of Mark’s gospel we’ll continue along now in our text, **Mark 10:1-12**. This is *Part -2* of our lesson, “...let not man separate” which is taken from **verse 9** and provides us with the central point of focus concerning this teaching of Jesus on marriage. We mentioned last time in introducing this topic that we live in a society and culture that sees divorce as just another of the “necessary evils” of life if you will. Even Christians have embraced such a selfish and sinful philosophy and the marriage and divorce rates bear that out. Jesus in this teaching calls men and women to a standard that takes us back to the garden where in creation God established the Marriage Covenant. Jesus lived in a culture that was no more or no less sinful and selfish than ours and that is why His call to faithfulness and forgiveness in marriage is one that was both then and now bristled at. Regardless of how we feel or think concerning the fulfillment of our needs and desires from our marriage partner, we see God calls us to demonstrate and live in, among other things, unity, self abasement, servant-hood and forgiveness in marriage. I will mention that this topic of marriage is such that we will by no means be able to exhaust and even explore all there is to say about it so our goal will be with a little exception (That being a brief look at the “exception clause” of **Matthew 19**), to stay in our text and cover the material in it. Read: **Mark 10:1–12:** *“Then He arose from there and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan. And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again. The Pharisees came and asked Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” testing Him. 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 to dismiss her.” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. So He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, teach and feed me from Your Word this week. Help me to be humble as I study and hear the important truths You are saying to me through Sacred Scripture.

TUESDAY – Mark 10:6–9: *“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* We pick up our text where we left off last week as we now see Jesus goes to a higher court than that of Moses and the marriage legislation of **Deuteronomy 24** as He quotes 2 important passages from Genesis. **Genesis 1:27:** *“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”* & **Genesis 2:24:** *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”* As we saw last week, sadly the Pharisees questioning Jesus did not seem at all interested in the creation ordinance and the permanence of the marriage institution created by God but rather looked for the “concession” and “exceptions” found in **Deuteronomy 24**. Jesus pointed right back past the legislation of marriage in Deuteronomy and lands back at God’s original intent and ordinance. Lest we chastise the Pharisees unjustly we need to acknowledge we are just like them when it comes to “justifying” our sinful behaviors. Sadly, in marriage counseling this Pharisaical and sinful attitude of “looking for the loophole” seems way too prevalent. Yes, it needs to be said there are circumstances beyond a spouse’s control that bring about the painful experience of divorce, but it should not be pursued or looked for like we see demonstrated here by these Pharisees. They didn’t even know their own argument well; Moses only “permitted” divorce because the people had “hard hearts” and the permission (*bill of divorcement*) was an act of mercy to keep sinful men from just “divorcing” their wives as they felt led without any regard for their wives as among other things it forced the matter into writing. That aside, Jesus says that God created them *male and female* and *in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*. This verse is very important and profound in what it tells us concerning Marriage. God made man, a male (Adam) from the dust of the ground and then later on God makes woman, a female (Eve) taken from the very body of man. From the details and order of this creative act we learn that God had a purpose as He made them different and for one another. The intimate physical union of male and female as man and wife is a clear and perfect demonstration of this Divine joining together.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for the wonderful plan of and picture seen in marriage. Save me from living selfishly, proud, and in a manner that always looks out for my interests.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 10:6–9: *“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* Still there is more concerning the joining of man and woman *in the image of God* that we must see. Just as God Himself is inseparably “One Being” in three persons He took two beings (man and woman) and made them one. Marriage, and the union of two different people in it is a graphic picture of the Godhead’s unity and union as the three persons yet One of The Holy Trinity. This is what is being said in **Genesis 1:27**, *“So God created*

man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Jesus is saying that God’s very *image* (Hebrew tselem -“illusion, resemblance, representative figure” is on display in marriage and this is one reason divorce is an assault against the very image of God.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for being so patient with me even when I sin against You. Help me to be more faithful and obedient to You my covenant Lord.

THURSDAY – As I mentioned, there were at least two conflicting schools of thought concerning divorce among the Jews stemming from their interpretation of **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**. That text says, ““When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife, if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.” Earlier we mentioned the two different Rabbinic schools of thought concerning this issue of divorce; they were Shammai and Hillel. The one school, the followers of Shammai interpreted the phrase *finds no favor in his eyes* in **Deuteronomy 24:1** to refer to unchastity or adultery. They saw it referring to a serious offense of a sexual nature and that was the ground the stood on to say a man was allowed to divorce his wife. The school of Hillel on the other hand had a much more liberal view and interpretation of *finds no favor in his eyes* and broadened that phrase to include such things as serving bad dinner, talking to loudly, not being as pretty as another lady, etc... Needless to say, they had many followers and adherents of their interpretation and little tolerance or recognition of forgiveness and patience. So when the question came to Jesus from the Pharisees, understand they were coming with their own viewpoints established already; this was a *testing*. If they could get the Lord to “choose sides” between these views He would be forced to alienate someone and surely He would anger some people. The Lord Jesus masterfully illustrates to them that the question is wrong, making an assumption that is fundamentally wrong. Why the talk about divorce and its possibilities and allowances? It presupposes a mindset of “If this doesn’t work out I can always get a divorce”. Jesus now goes pre-Moses and arrives at creation to establish God’s view of marriage.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You that one day paradise will be restored and I will live with You in a new glorified sinless body in a new heaven and earth.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 10:6–9:** “But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Jesus now goes to a higher court than that of Moses and marriage legislation of **Deuteronomy 24** as He quotes 2 important passages from Genesis. **Genesis 1:27:** “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” & **Genesis 2:24:** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Read and meditate on them. These two passages contain a wealth of wisdom and insight into this matter of divorce and what God believes about marriage and we will Lord willing dive into them further next week.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for the wonderful plan of and picture seen in marriage.