

WEEK # 24  
Mark 10:1-16

**READ MARK 10:1-16**

***From Tim Keller's Study guide***

In the first half of the book of Mark, the emphasis is on **who** Jesus is and on his public ministry. In the second half of the book, the emphasis is on **what** Jesus came to do and on his private instruction of his disciples. At first glance, it seems that some of the incidents in this chapter deviate from that scheme, but we must look more closely. The controversy with the Pharisees ends with Jesus' personal focus on the Twelve (verses 10-12). The over-arching concern of Jesus is (still) to teach the meaning of the pattern of his death.

1. Refer to verses 1-12. Why do you think the Pharisees would want to consult with Jesus about divorce?
2. Does Jesus take a "liberal" or "conservative" view of marriage and divorce?
3. Read verses 10-12. a) Is Jesus over-ruling Moses and now changing the Old Testament allowance for divorce? b) How do we then understand his seemingly categorical statement against divorce?

***From Warren Wiersbe's BE DILIGENT***

Choose one verse or phrase from Mark 10:1-16 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Write that here."

How would you describe our current society's view of divorce?

How did Jesus' mention of the wife in His directive on divorce elevate the status of women in that society?

What have the children in your life taught you about following God?

In Jesus' day, not to have children was a shame and a curse, and to have them was a blessing. How does that compare with our view of children today?

***First marriage, then children; the sequence is logical. Unlike many "moderns" today, the Jews of that day looked on children as a blessing and not a burden, a rich treasure from God and not a liability (Ps. 127–128). To be without children brought a couple both sorrow and disgrace.***

***It was customary for parents to bring their children to the rabbis for a blessing, and so it was reasonable that they would bring the little ones to Jesus. Some were infants in arms (Luke 18:15), while others were young children able to walk, and He welcomed them all.***

***—Be Diligent, page 120***

Why did the disciples rebuke the people and try to keep the children away from Jesus? (See also Matt. 15:23 for another instance of their hardness of heart.) What does this say about how they did or didn't value children? What lesson did they miss from Jesus' earlier teaching? (See Mark 9:36–37.)

### **From Exalting Jesus in Mark**

How has the world changed in the last 50 years with regard to relationships and divorce? What were the social trends behind those changes? What can the church do to improve society?

What aspects of Genesis 2:18-25 point to God's prescription for the ideal marriage?

What is the definition of marriage? What is the purpose of marriage? How does this affect our view on the legal definition of marriage?

What is the difference in the Bible between regulating or reporting divorce, on the one hand, and sanctioning or affirming divorce on the other?

Why is it difficult not to let feelings enter into the determination of what is the biblical truth about divorce? For a Christian leader, what is the place of compassion with regard to divorce?

How has the fall influenced God's ideal for marriage? How does it affect the way a Christian might counsel couples?

How would you respond to someone who says, "I'll just get divorced and remarried, then I'll ask God to forgive me"?

Why are there so many different Christian opinions on divorce and remarriage? How does this uncertainty affect the way a Christian leader might counsel a couple? What do we know for sure?

What interest does the church have in defining and regulating secular marriage? What can the church do to help prevent divorce before it happens? What can individuals do?

## **OIKOS THOUGHTS**

Has there been a time when God used you to speak into someone's marriage?  
Has there been a time when God used someone to speak into your marriage?

What does Child like faith look like?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

**#33 What the Bible says about Marriage and Divorce- Chris Brown (55:35)**

[LINK - Click here](#)

## **Discussion Guide**

[Alistair Begg- Divorce - Part 1](#)

[Alistair Begg - Divorce - Part 2](#)

[Mark 10 Explained -Through the Word](#)