

**23S07 Mark 10:1-16 (Part 22)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 10:1-16 (Part 22) Jesus teaches about divorce and children.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

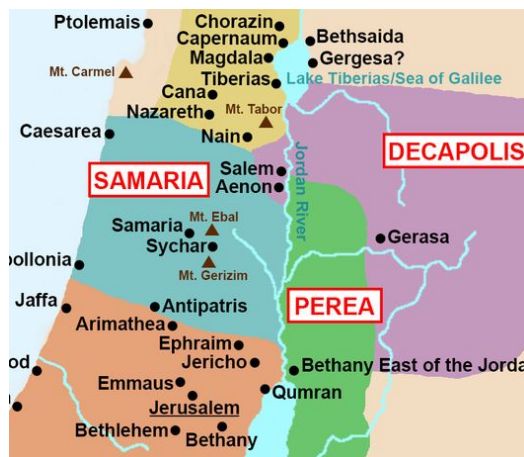
I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today.

Let's read Mark 10:1-16 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>Setting out from there, Jesus went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered to Him again, and, as He was accustomed, He once more began to teach them. <sup>2</sup>And some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began questioning Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife. <sup>3</sup>And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send his wife away." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, God CREATED THEM MALE AND FEMALE. <sup>7</sup>FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, <sup>8</sup>AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate." <sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples again began questioning Him about this. <sup>11</sup>And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery." <sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." <sup>16</sup>And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.*

Let's pray. **Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 10:1 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>Setting out from there, Jesus went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered to Him again, and, as He was accustomed, He once more began to teach them.*

Okay before we get started, setting out from there. Out from where? Well in Chapter 9, Jesus is in Capernaum. So, Jesus leaves Capernaum for region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. So looking at our map, the orange area is Judea and the region in green is Perea east of the Jordan river. So, keep in mind Jesus has just traveled from Capernaum in Galilee to somewhere in either Judea or Perea.



Jesus is again teaching the crowds and of course the Pharisees are there to test Jesus. Mark 10:2-4 (NAS) *<sup>2</sup>And some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began questioning Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife. <sup>3</sup>And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send his wife away.”*

Our Jesus was a great teacher. When a Pharisee asks a very obvious question to trap Jesus, He answers with such a simple question. What did Moses tell you? So the parrot Moses without any backstory as to why.

Mark 10:5-9 (NAS) *<sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, God CREATED THEM MALE AND FEMALE. <sup>7</sup>FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, <sup>8</sup>AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate.”*

Jesus makes it very clear what God thinks of this. Jesus quotes Genesis 2:24 (NAS) *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.* God puts value in the relationship between a husband and a wife. Jesus is clear Moses only allow this because of pressure from the people not because God permitted it. What God has joined together, no person, not even Moses, should allow to separate. We should take marriage seriously, it always takes work.

Next Mark 10:10-12 (NAS) *<sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples again began questioning Him about this. <sup>11</sup>And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”*

Now this is tough teaching but Jesus is saying God does not agree with divorce. I know there are lots of reasons. And this is true, but if you divorce, the bible says you should not remarry or marry a divorced person. If you do, then you commit adultery because God does not recognize the divorce. I know this is not our culture today, but that is what Jesus said. Divorce is not part of God's plan; it is a human design and God does not agree. If you are divorced or married to a divorcee, this does not mean you are evil. It does not mean you should divorce them, two wrongs to not make a right. Recognize this is not the plan God wanted, ask for forgiveness and then the two of you, husband and wife, need to work toward what Jesus wants for your lives.

Now our story pivots to another issue, Mark 10:13 (NAS) *<sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them.*

Obviously, while Jesus is teaching and talking, people keep coming and wanting things from Him. People saw that Jesus was important and wish for their children to be touched or blessed or something. But the disciples were upset by this. We are busy, get out of here attitude. But Jesus is all about the interruptions. CS. Lewis says, the interruptions are your life. God brings things into our life this way, so instead of being angry, embrace it.

Next Mark 10:14-16 (NAS) *<sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." <sup>16</sup>And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.*

Jesus is making an important point to his followers, never judge the importance of someone by their outward appearance or what they can or cannot do. Only those who approach the Lord with the innocence of a child can receive the message of the kingdom of God. Then He takes time and blesses each child.

Let's review.

- 1) Divorce? This can be a very sore topic for many. Regardless of your personal views on divorce and marriage, the bible is pretty clear what God thinks. It is also clear that because of our persistence, even Moses relented and provided a provision for divorce. But again, this is a concept made by man, not what God wants or has ordained.
- 2) Interruptions? Jesus uses many interruptions to teach us principle about life. The parents and kids are annoying the disciples, but Jesus says, not so fast. Everyone is important to God, interruptions are critical parts of our lives. Embrace them.
- 3) Like a Child? Most of us ignore this principle. We often think our knowledge or experiences somehow make us better suited for the kingdom of God. Well, yes and no. If we think our anything makes us more important in the kingdom of God, then we are sadly mistaken. We must approach Jesus in innocence, like

the innocence of a child, if we are to expect to learn and live the way God wants us to live. Right here and right now in the kingdom of God.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this today. Kids are like a sponge, they soak up information from us, they try to emulate us. That is exactly how we must be with God. We need to approach God with a fill me up with whatever I need attitude, we try to be more and more like Jesus. That is the abundantly satisfying life God wants for each of us.

What does this mean for you? God knows the best way to live. The best way for us to live is in a state of eagerness to learn from our Lord. God wants us to be part of his plan because he knows what is best for us. When we recognize we need God and only God can show us the right things to do and the right way to live, then we are approaching life in the kingdom of God with innocence.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.