

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** February 23, 2025

**Text:** Mark 10:1-12

**Title:** Discipleship & Marriage

**Big Idea:** God's good design is for marriage to be a permanent relationship between one man and one woman.



## I. THE PHARISEES' QUESTION (vv. 1-9)

*And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" (v. 2)*

*And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife **for any cause?**" (Matthew 19:3)*

Divorce was only God's permissive plan (v. 5): He allowed it only because of the hard-hearted wickedness of people!

Divorce is not God's perfect plan (v. 6–9): He made man and woman to be joined together permanently in marriage.

"The main point is that this is how it was meant to be from the beginning, and first principles must take primacy over subsequent remedial provisions." – R.T. France

*"And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." (Matthew 19:9)*

## II. THE DISCIPLES' QUESTION (vv. 10-12)

*And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. (v. 10)*

## III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

"The question in our day of impermanent commitments and casual divorce is whether we as Christians will hear the unique call of Christ to discipleship in marriage."

- In marriage, as in other areas to which the call of Christ applies, will we seek relief in what is permitted, or commit ourselves to what is intended by God and commanded by Christ?
- Will we fall away in trouble and difficulty (4:17), or follow Jesus in the costly journey of discipleship, even in marriage?
- Will we sunder the divine union of "two become one flesh," or will we honor and nurture marriage as a gift and creation of God?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark*, p. 305.

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

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## READ Mark 10:1-12

What was the Pharisees' intent in asking Jesus about divorce? (v. 2) How does their approach reveal their hearts?

How does Jesus contrast Moses' allowance for divorce with God's original purpose for marriage? (vv. 4-5) How does Jesus redirect the conversation from divorce to God's original design for marriage? (vv. 6-9)

Why does Jesus emphasize that marriage is a union where "the two shall become one flesh"? (v. 8) What does this reveal about God's intention for marriage?

In verses 10-12, why does Jesus make such a strong statement about remarriage being adultery? How would this have challenged His audience's understanding of marriage?

How does Jesus' teaching challenge our culture's view of marriage and divorce today? How can we uphold God's design for marriage in our personal lives and in our communities?

What role does repentance, forgiveness, and grace play in restoring broken marriages? If someone has been affected by divorce, how can the church respond with both truth and compassion?

How does this passage point us to the gospel and God's covenantal love for His people?

## PRAY