

THIS WEEK’S MESSAGE

AUGUST 30TH–31ST, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

DIVORCE (MARK 10:1–12) FROM CAPERNAUM TO JUDEA

Capernaum was the safe place for Jesus and the 12, and this was the last time Jesus would be in that region. They left there to go to Judea, where He would eventually be crucified.

- Jesus instantly encountered the adversarial Pharisees, who once again tried to find grounds to have Him killed.

THIS TIME DIVORCE WAS THE TOPIC

Divorce was a hot topic at this time because of John the Baptist calling out the infidelity of Herod, who was king over Judea.

- There were two thoughts on divorce. The conservative Shammais said only adultery permitted divorce. The liberal Hillels thought a husband could divorce for any reason.

THE LAW TRIED TO BALANCE THE EQUATION

The Pharisees said Moses promoted divorce (Deuteronomy 24), but Jesus clarified that laws about divorce were established to **protect women** because of the “hardness of [their] hearts.”

- OT laws were given to balance extreme reactions. Like laws today, there was flexibility in punishment for violations.

“BUT FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION...”

Jesus paints a picture of the beauty and importance of marriage. He quotes Genesis 2:24 to remind us what marriage is to look like and how sacredly it must be treated.

- Marriage must be entered into with great care and preparation, and exited with great caution, prayer, and counsel.

GENUINE QUESTIONS GET GENUINE ANSWERS

Because the disciples wanted to know the answers, Jesus explained more to them. In that time, men could not legally be adulterers but notice Jesus states they can.

- What are biblical grounds for divorce? **Adultery** (Matthew 19; Mark 10), **abandonment** (1 Corinthians 7:15), **abuse** (careful with this one).

HONORING GOD IN MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Marriage is serious. It is equated to the union of Christians and Christ: we become “one flesh,” only death *should* dissolve it, and God hates divorce because He loves us (Malachi 2:16).

- When divorce is mentioned, we must ask, **“Can I stand before Jesus and honestly say I’ve done everything I can to fix this?”**

CHILDLIKE (MARK 10:13–16) CHILDREN AND GOD’S KINGDOM

In Ch. 9 Jesus uses a child to demonstrate how we are to treat others. Here, people were bringing kids to Jesus in order for Him to bless them (common with rabbis), but “the disciples rebuked them.”

- This was probably to keep them moving and to protect Jesus’ time.

AGAIN, THEY MISSED THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

Jesus was “indignant” towards the 12 because they once again missed the point that people, especially ones **“such as these,”** were the reason why He came to minister and save.

- Like children, we are to be **dependent, trust**, realize **we need help**, and **receive salvation knowing we did not earn it**.

THEY CAME; HE BLESSED

“After taking them in His arms, He laid His hands on them and blessed them” (v. 16).

- When we approach Jesus with the **humility** and **desire** of a child, we freely receive His **love, salvation, grace** when we fail, and **blessings** throughout our lives. We just have to walk with Him.

THE HEART (MARK 10:17–22)

“...A MAN RAN UP, KNELT DOWN BEFORE HIM”

As Jesus was about to leave, a wealthy young man approached in an undignified way. This showed his passion and eagerness.

- Jesus asked why he called Him “good.” Good was mostly used to refer to God. It seems like Jesus was probing the man about who he believed Jesus to be.

IT IS MORE THAN CHECKING OFF BOXES

Jesus asks if he knows the commands of Exodus 20. Notice, Jesus doesn’t ask about commands pertaining to his relationship with God but ones pertaining to his treatment of others.

- Maybe Jesus knew he was not following the first command? Maybe He was calling out his neglect of other people?

OFTEN RELIGIOUS, BUT NOT RELATIONAL

If we are not careful, we can reduce Christianity to rules, often because it benefits us. In this, we fail to build a true relationship with Jesus, and we neglect or even mistreat others.

- **Many know how to talk, look, and even follow the rules, but do not truly live sacrificially for Christ and others.**

“LOOKING AT HIM, JESUS LOVED HIM AND SAID...”

“You lack one thing...” Jesus cared for this young man, so He exposed to him that his **passion outweighed his commitment to let everything go in order to follow Jesus.**

- The call to give up wealth is not universal, but **we’re all called to lay aside anything that impedes us from fully following Jesus!**

“BUT HE WAS DISMAYED BY THIS DEMAND”

A young rich man stands in front of God in the flesh and is invited to follow Him, and he says no because “he had many possessions.”

- **Often called the saddest scripture**, it is the only case of someone coming to Jesus and not having their need met. **Jesus loves us, but He will not override our choice.**

WISDOM & SACRIFICE (MARK 10:23–31) GOOD THING I’M NOT WEALTHY!

Jesus’ statement in v. 23 can be applied to anyone who lives in comfort. And, even if we do not consider ourselves “rich,” we often have things in our lives that come between us and following Jesus.

- **We love to use Scripture to attack others, but we can all fall prey to selfishness.**

A FUN HYPERBOLE (PROBABLY NOT A GATE)

Jesus uses an extreme exaggeration of trying to shove a camel through the eye of a needle to prove how hard it is for people who live in extreme comfort to be saved.

- This is not a rant against wealth but a truth that **comfort often deters us from depending on Jesus for salvation and help.**

“THEN WHO CAN BE SAVED?”

Wealth was often viewed as God’s reward to the righteous (from Abraham). To be fair, everything good we have is from God, but the problem is that we often forget that.

- **Salvation happens when we open-handedly approach Jesus and realize that only His power can save and restore.**

ONE OF THOSE TWISTED VERSES (V. 27)

“With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God” is often taken way out of context! This is specifically talking about salvation and sanctification, not winning ball games or getting promoted at work.

- **Context, context, context.**

ALL SACRIFICE WILL BE REWARDED

Jesus and His Word are not always easy, but they are always honest. Being a Christian may entail sacrificing comforts, houses, money, friends, and even family, but Jesus promises He will reward us more than we can comprehend.

- **Jesus does not bribe us to follow Him; He challenges us to step into greatness.**

THE FIRST WILL BE LAST AND THE LAST WILL BE FIRST

Wise people keep an eternal perspective as opposed to a temporal one. If one steps back and compares the temporary rewards of selfishness to the eternal rewards of **submitting to Christ and serving others**, it makes sense to make any sacrifice Jesus calls us to make.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

- We must enter into marriage with prayer, wisdom, counsel, and preparation.
- God loves us but hates divorce. Before we get there, we must do our best to salvage the marriage.
- Biblically, only **adultery, abuse**, and **abandonment** justify divorce.

A CHILDLIKE APPROACH

- Jesus tells us to approach Him like a child: **open-minded, dependent, humble, trusting**, and **willing to freely receive love, salvation, grace when we sin**, and **guidance** when we are confused.
- This does not diminish our **responsibility** to walk in relationship with Him.

RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

- Even if we look the part and follow the rules (or at least think we do) but do not seek Jesus first and treat others well, we have missed the whole point of Christianity.
- **Religious action and laws without genuine relationship prohibit us from truly following Jesus and loving others.**

NOW VS. FOREVER

- **Truly following Jesus is not easy, but the rewards in eternity outweigh any discomfort, sacrifice, and pain we can ever experience in this life.**
- Jesus does not bribe or manipulate us into following Him; **He challenges us to step up into the greatness He wants for us.**