

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

DIVORCE (MARK 10:1–12) PHARISEES

The Pharisees were not asking to learn—they were trying to trap Jesus. If He spoke against Herod's adultery, He could be killed like John the Baptist. And even if not, His answer would upset one side of the divorce debate. This was a dangerous, high-stakes question.

- When we come to Jesus, are we really seeking truth and ready to obey?

DIFFERENT VIEWS ON DIVORCE

In Jesus' day, people argued a lot about divorce. One group said it was only allowed for adultery (Rabbi Shammai), while another said it could happen for almost any reason (Rabbi Hillel).

- **People have always tried to bend God's Word. We can be tempted to look for loopholes instead of God's heart.**

WHAT DID MOSES COMMAND YOU?

Moses did not command divorce—he allowed it because hearts were hard. Divorce was not God's original plan. It was a way to handle unfaithfulness and the hurt that comes when forgiveness is difficult.

- **God strengthens what seems impossible. Even when hearts are hurt, God can restore trust and love.**

LET'S GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Jesus shifted the focus from divorce to marriage. The real issue was not divorce but forgetting God's purpose for marriage: a husband and wife become one and joined together by God.

- **Marriage is God's idea. It is not something to rush into, treat casually, or walk away from lightly.**

MORE DIRECT ANSWER FOR HIS DISCIPLES

God allows divorce only for adultery or abandonment (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:15), and only then is remarriage okay. Otherwise, marriage is meant to last.

- **Even when divorce happens, God's grace is available to heal, restore, and guide us. He does not want to condemn but to bring hope and new life.**

CHILDREN (MARK 10:13–16) CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT TO JESUS

The disciples tried to turn the children away, but Jesus was upset. He corrected them to show His love for the weak and the vulnerable. If children matter to Jesus, they should matter to us, too!

- **Do we see children as Jesus does, or do we treat them as less important?**

CHILDREN'S EXAMPLE FOR US

Jesus said we must receive God's Kingdom like children. Children cannot take care of themselves, but they trust, hope, and depend on others.

- **We enter God's Kingdom by trusting Him like a child—helpless, hopeful, and thankful. We do not earn His Kingdom; we receive it as a gift.**

IDOLATRY (MARK 10:17–22) A QUESTION FOR JESUS

The young man was rich, powerful, and respected. He had heard Jesus teach and was impressed. When he saw Jesus leaving, he ran to Him and knelt down respectfully. Then he asked one of the most important questions in the Bible: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

TRUST IN THE WORK OF JESUS

The young man's question shows he thought eternal life was something you earn: "What must I do?" Eternal life is a gift we receive, not something we achieve. It is based on what Jesus has already done.

- Our "good works" cannot save us; Jesus' work on the cross does. **Trust Jesus, not our efforts.**

FOLLOWING RULES IS NOT ENOUGH

Jesus pointed to the last six commandments, which deal with how we treat others. The young man said, "Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth." Outwardly, he was probably right. Like Paul, he followed the law carefully and appeared faultless (Philippians 3:6).

- **Following rules outwardly does not equal a heart fully surrendered to God.**

DO NOT HAVE OTHER GODS

Jesus now focused on the first commandment by asking him to sell everything. For the young man, his wealth had become an idol. Only when he is willing to give it all up could he become like a humble child and follow Jesus.

- **Letting go of what we cling to allows God to give us more than we can imagine. Hold tightly to Jesus.**

"HE WENT AWAY GRIEVING ..."

The young man was sad when Jesus told him to sell everything. He loved his wealth too much to let it go. Even though Jesus promised him treasure in Heaven, he valued earthly riches more than God. His money had become an idol in his heart.

- **Is there anything we value more than God? Will we walk away grieving, too?**

IMPOSSIBLE (MARK 10:23–31) WEALTH

Jesus was not saying wealth is wrong or poverty is good. The point is that wealth can make us trust ourselves instead of God. Money can be dangerous because it makes us satisfied with this life and less focused on eternal things.

- **Comfort in this life can make us forget about the life to come (Colossians 3:2).**

AN IMAGE OF A CAMEL

A camel is very big, so the disciples saw it as impossible for the camel to pass through the eye of a needle. Jesus used this picture to show that entering God's Kingdom is impossible on our own. It is only possible with God, because of what Jesus has done for us.

- **Are we living with gratitude for what Jesus has done for us?**

"WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING ..."

Peter, always quick to speak, said, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus replied that anyone who gives up anything for Him and the gospel will receive much more—both now and in eternity. Following Jesus costs something, but the blessings are far greater than the "losses."

- **Being WITH Jesus is all that matters!**

"FIRST WILL BE LAST, AND THE LAST FIRST"

In God's Kingdom, earthly standards of rank, power, and importance are reversed. This teaching wraps up His lessons on wealth and reminds us to think more like Him rather than the world.

- **The world prizes power, wealth, and status. What matters is faith, humility, and obedience to Christ.**

INTENTIONALITY WITH RELATIONSHIPS

- Single: Use your singleness to **pursue God wholeheartedly**. Grow in maturity.
- Dating: **Date with intentionality**, seeking to discern character.
- Engaged: **Prepare spiritually, emotionally, and practically** for the covenant of marriage.
- Married: Respect the covenant designed to **reflect Christ's love for the Church**.

INVEST IN AND LEARN FROM CHILDREN!

- Jesus made time for children. Do we? Read Scripture and pray with them.
- **Will we disciple children, or will we let the world do it?** The greatest gift parents can give to their kids is pointing them to Jesus.
- We need to learn from kids. We need to get back to **total dependence on Jesus and excitement to receive Him**.

SURRENDER FULLY OR WALK AWAY SAD

- **If everything else was stripped away, would Jesus be enough?**
- What is it that we are holding tightly to? If Jesus asked us to surrender the thing that we hold tightly to, would we do it or would we walk away sad?
- **True freedom comes not from holding tightly but from surrendering fully.**

HOW DO WE INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

- Acknowledge our need for a Savior and that we cannot save ourselves.
- Be desperately dependent on Jesus and receive what He has done.
- Cling to our relationship with Jesus.
- The fruit of having a relationship with Jesus should show itself in our relationships (marriage, kids, family, etc.).
- 2 Corinthians 8:9