

THE GOSPEL of

MARK

Family Matters

Gospel of Mark

- written by John Mark
- accounts from Peter inspired with intention

3 Big Chunks

Galilee – encountering Jesus, who is this?

Jerusalem – disciples struggling to understand

Journey to Jerusalem – how Jesus will fulfill the role of Messiah King

- Mark is cryptic, big picture with carefully chosen stories and details introducing you to Gospel

Mark 10:1-17

“And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”

1. The Question

- setting important – King Herod Antipas the ruling this area
- crowds – public setting Jesus teaching many

a) Hot Button Issue

- divorce and remarriage big discussion, generations old
- politically and religiously current
- King Herod has taken half brother Phillip's wife
- Affair, taking her, queen Herodias
- called out on behavior by John the Baptist – Mk 6

- Mk. 6:17-19 “For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death.”

- beheaded at the request of the queen through daughter

b) No Satisfying Answer

- issue with many opinions – current in society

- what action can I take if I am unhappy, unfulfilled, desire.....

- is it lawful for a man to

- don't miss the value implications, provision & protection

2. The Response of Jesus

a) What does the Law read?

- what did Moses command? (Deut. 24)
- provision under law for a certificate

b) Life in a Broken World

- commonly accepted grounds for divorce
 - sexual sin – Matt. 5, 19
 - abandonment – Malachi

c) Hardness of Heart

- bent on what I determine or desire
- unrepentant and graceless

d) Design of God

- Gen. 2 – creation of man and woman
- 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
- created for relationship that is consecrated, set apart for one another, blessed by God, foundation for family
- marriage is design & desire of God for people

e) God's View of Covenant

- not man's domain to separate what God has joined
- later with disciples, uses term adultery – both sides
- this failure carried massive implications
- view of God – faithful to covenant relationship essential
 - image used in His faithfulness to us
- recovering God's intention for our best and blessing

*Note – how Jesus responds to woman caught in adultery, woman at the well, restored – go and sin no more. As children of God – how the family works & is restored important

3. Children Coming to Jesus

a) Value of Children in Society

- disciples rebuked for hindering kids from bothering Jesus

b) Indignance of Jesus

- let them come to me
- do not hinder them

c) Importance of Childlike Faith

- dependence of a child
- expectation of a child
- simplicity and honesty of the response

So What?

1. As You Encounter Hot Button Topics

- take a look at Jesus' Response

- a) Specific Teaching and Explicit Passages

- b) Intention of God's Design

- heart of God for His creation, children

- how do obedient, empowered, followers respond

- is this consistent with the Character and will of God

- c) The Value of People and Covenant to God

2. Hard Hearts and a Broken World

a) My will or Yours?

- your kingdom come, your will be done
- not my will but yours

b) Cultivation of Repentance

- owning my sin – turning from it
- forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation from God
- accepting from God – extending it to others
- allowing His work and touch in my heart & life

c) Recovering a View of Covenant

- come what may – set apart for.....
- so far as it depends on me.....
- allowing God to handle the future

d) Healing in our Brokenness

- God cleaning out the infection
- Binding us up – renewing and restoring
- using us in the lives of others – hands and feet
- our story a witness – God story

3. Coming to Jesus like Children

- fully dependent and not earning the privilege
- unhindered – freely approaching the father
- valued – regardless of the contribution to the greater family
- blessed – receiving the protection and provision of the Father