Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. **His *Preparation*** for **Ministry** (1:1-20)
B. **His *Powerful* Ministry** (1:21-2:12)
C. **His *Pointed* Defense** of **His Ministry** (2:13-3:6)
D. **His *Progressing* Ministry** (3:7-35)
E. **His *Practice*** of **Teaching** in **Parables** (4:1-34)
F. **His *Predominant* Power** (4:35-5:43)
G. **His *Preeminence*** in **Galilee** (6:1-9:50)

H. **His *Preaching* Ministry** in **Judea** (10:1-52)

1. ***Responding*** to a **Question** regarding **Divorce** (10:1-12)

10 Getting up, **He** went from there to the region of **Judea** and beyond the **Jordan**;
crowds gathered around **Him** again, and, according to **His custom**,
He once more *began* to **teach them**.

2 *Some* **Pharisees** came up to **Jesus, testing Him**, and *began* to **question**
Him whether it was ***lawful*** for a **man** to **divorce a wife**.

3 And **He answered** and said to them, "**What** did **Moses command you**?"

4 They said, "**Moses permitted** *a man*
TO WRITE A **CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE** AND **SEND *her* AWAY**."

5 But **Jesus** said to them,
"Because of your ***hardness* of heart** he wrote you this **commandment.**

6 But from the **beginning** of **creation, *God*** MADE THEM **MALE** AND **FEMALE**.

7 FOR **THIS REASON** A MAN SHALL **LEAVE** HIS **FATHER** AND **MOTHER**,

8 AND **THE TWO** SHALL BECOME **ONE FLESH**;
so they are no longer **two**, but **one flesh**.

9 What therefore **God** has ***joined* together**, let **no man *separate***."

10 In the **house** the **disciples** *began* questioning **Him** about this again.

11 And **He said** to them, "Whoever **divorces his wife**
and **marries another woman** commits **adultery** against **her**;

[12] and if **she** herself **divorces her husband** and **marries another man**,
she is **committing adultery**."

2. ***Receiving*** and **Blessing** the **Children** (10:13-16)

[13] And they were bringing **children** to **Him** so that **He** might **touch them**;
but the **disciples *rebuked*** them.

[14] But when **Jesus** saw this, **He** was ***indignant*** and said to them,
"**Permit** the **children** to **come to Me**; do **not hinder** them;
for the **kingdom of God *belongs*** to such as **these**.

[15] Truly I say to you, whoever does **not receive** the **kingdom of God**
like a child will **not enter it** *at all*."

[16] And **He took them** in **His arms** and *began* **blessing them**,
laying His hands on **them**.

A ***Summary*** of **Jesus' Teaching** on **Divorce** (10:1-12)

1. Tonight's text begins with some of the **Pharisees** coming to **Jesus** and **testing Him** with a question about **divorce**. Their question was whether it was **lawful** for a man to **divorce** his **wife** for **any reason** (Matthew 19:3; Mark 10:2).

   According to **Jewish beliefs** at this time, there were **two** main schools of **belief** regarding **divorce**. These **two schools** were based on the teachings of **two** great **rabbis**, **Hillel** and **Shammai**. According to **Hillel**, it was entirely up to the **husband** to determine what were **legal grounds** for **divorce.** The **school** of **Rabbi Shammai** permitted **divorce *only*** in the case of **moral defilement**.

   The **Pharisees** sought to **entrap the Lord**, and bring **Him** into a **collision** with one or the **other** of these **two opposing schools**. (Pulpit Commentary)

2. **Jesus responded** to the **Pharisees** by pointing them to the **scriptures,** and reminding them that **marriage** is a **divine institution** established **by God**:

   a. ***Declaring*** that from the **beginning** of **creation**, **God** had "MADE THEM **MALE** AND **FEMALE** (Mark 10:6; Matthew 19:4).

   b. ***Describing*** how that the **marriage relationship** was **designed by God** to be the **closest** and most **indissoluble** of all **ties**. For the **husband** and **wife** become by **marriage**, "**one flesh**."

      FOR THIS **REASON A MAN** SHALL **LEAVE** HIS **FATHER** AND **MOTHER**,

      AND **THE TWO** SHALL BECOME **ONE FLESH**;
      so they are no longer **two**, but **one flesh** (Mark 10:7-8, Matthew 19:5).

   c. ***Directing*** them with a ***warning*** against **separating** that which "**God** has **joined together**" (Mark 10:9; Matthew 19:6)."

3. After this **response** from the **Messiah**, it is recorded in **Matthew** that the **Pharisees** asked **Jesus**:

"***Why*** then did **Moses command to**
GIVE **HER** A **CERTIFICATE OF <u>DIVORCE</u>** AND **SEND *her* AWAY**?"

Jesus then responded:

,.."Because of your ***hardness* of heart** Moses **permitted** you to **divorce your wives**;
but from the **beginning** it has **not** been **this way**.

And **I say** to you, whoever **divorces his wife**, **except** for **<u>immorality</u>**,
and **marries** another **woman commits <u>adultery</u>**."(Matthew 19:7-9; Mark 10:3-5)

4. Later on, in a **home** setting, **Mark** records that the **disciples questioned Jesus** about the subject of **divorce** again. To which **He responded** again:

"**Whoever <u>divorces</u>** his **wife** and **marries another woman**
commits **<u>adultery</u>** against **her**;

and if ***she* herself <u>divorces</u>** her **husband** and **marries another man**,
she is committing **<u>adultery</u>**." (Mark 10:11-12)

Jesus Receiving and **Blessing** the **<u>Children</u>**
Summary **<u>Outline</u>**

A. The ***Parental*** **Pursuit** of a **<u>Blessing</u>** (10:13a)

B. The ***Protest*** of the **<u>Disciples</u>** (10:13b)

C. The ***Passionate*** **Response** of the **<u>Messiah</u>** (10:14-15)

1. **Who *demanded*** that the **children** be **<u>permitted</u>** to **<u>come</u> to Him** (10:14a)

2. **Who *decreed*** that the **kingdom of God <u>belongs</u>** to such as **these** (10:14b)

3. **Who *declared*** that one must **receive** the **kingdom** "like a **<u>child"</u>** to even **enter it** (10:15)

D. The ***Pronouncement*** of **<u>Blessings</u>** upon the **Children** (10:16)

<u>Closing Comments</u> on ***Marriage*** and ***Divorce***