

05.02.10 / Mark 10:1-12**Passage Insight**

Once again, an attempt is made to outwit and trap Jesus, and once again, the attempt fails. What is revealed about Jesus in this passage is what is always revealed about Him – Jesus focuses on the heart and intentions of the Father, not on appeasing the sinful heart of mankind. Less about divorce, this passage is more about the intention of God and the fact that His word and His intention should be our focus, just as it is Jesus’.

God is a God of design and order. According to Genesis, He spoke the universe into being, He divided the land and the sea, He told the sea where to stop and start, He placed the stars, He put the planets into specific orbit, and Jesus, who is God, continues to hold all things together (Colossians 1) and keep them from spinning out of control. As Jesus says in verse 6, God made mankind male and female. Jesus takes us back to the beginning of our existence when pressed about divorce. When the Pharisees ask him what is permissible, Jesus responds by instead pointing them to what is commanded – that God made us male and female and that marriage was meant to stick. His rationale is simple: GOD did this, therefore mankind shouldn’t UN-do it. Nonetheless, we rebel anyway, and we do so out of our selfishness and hardness of heart. This rebellion saddens God and clearly goes against His original design and order. God is the Creator – we’re the created – so let’s put our rebellion in these terms: it’s as though you cooked a spaghetti dinner and then once you get dinner on the table, your spaghetti reached out one of its noodles, grabbed a fork, and hurled it at your face. It’s ludicrous that the created thing would rebel against its Creator.

One purpose of marriage is to reflect to the world Jesus’ love for His bride, the church. After quoting in Ephesians 5:31 the same Scripture that Jesus Himself quotes (“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”), Paul goes on to say in verse 32 that, “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” When speaking about marriage and the proper relationship between husband and wife, Paul draws a direct comparison between the husband/wife relationship and the relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church. We read elsewhere in Ephesians 5 that the husband is head of his wife as Christ is head of His church and that a man should love his wife in the same way that Jesus loves His church. Jesus does not separate from His bride, nor are husbands and wives to separate from one another. Our marriages can and should be a demonstration to the world that Jesus loves us with the entirety of His being, holding nothing back, giving everything so that we may be made pure and be reunited with Him. When, through divorce, we disrupt God’s order by separating what God has joined, we destroy this witness and instead display our own sin and hardness of heart and mislead others in the process.

Ultimately, Jesus has the final word. He calls us all back to the heart of the matter – God’s intention – and He exposes the search for a loophole for what it is: a selfish attempt to get what we want due to the hardness of our hearts. At the end of the day, the question is this: are you going to ask Jesus what you can get away with, or are you going to ask Him what He intends for your life and seek to live accordingly?

Application Questions

Design and Order

- 1) Where do you notice evidence of God’s design in the natural world per Romans 1:20?
- 2) Where has the Lord brought order to your life?
- 3) How has this changed your view of God?
- 4) Where do you forget about the work He has done and work to un-do his work?
- 5) Who can you ask about this – someone who may see you more clearly than you see yourself?
- 6) Who will pray with you about this as you repent?

Getting Away With It

- 1) Where do you seek to justify your sin?
- 2) According to this passage, what does this reveal about your heart?
- 3) If you “got away with it” and continued in your sin and hardness of heart, where does this road lead you?
- 4) Jesus focuses on fulfilling the Lord’s purposes and calls us to do the same. What would it look like for you to seek the Lord’s intention instead of your own desire?
- 5) Play it out. How is Jesus’ way better?
- 6) The Lord’s commands us to follow Him because He LOVES us more completely than we could ever love ourselves. Where do you struggle to believe that He loves you like this?

The Heart of the Matter: Reflecting God’s Love For His Church

- 1) Our lives are supposed to reflect God to the world around us. If you’re married, where could you and your spouse do a better job of this? If you’re not married, where is your single life not really reflecting God?
- 2) What would the impact be on those closest to you if you reflected God in your marriage or in your single life?
- 3) Who can help you with this?

Sources

- Pillar
 - Word Bible Commentary
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