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| 1  Mark 10:1-12  09/17/23  “The Difficult Truth On Divorce And Remarriage”  INTRO:  -We live in a broken and fallen world  -Increasingly sexualized and pornographied culture  -Culture of me, self, and happiness  -Divorce is everywhere  -Divorce rate unbelievers 40-50%  -Divorce rate for second/third marriages 60-67%  -Not as high for believers but still enough to cause concern  THESIS: Mark is going to show you in today’s passage that to be a true disciple of Christ is to accept the difficult truth and standard of marriage, divorce, and remarriage  REVIEW  -Last week we saw what true disciple looks like | 2  1. Constantly abiding in Christ  2. Exhibit true humility-not a game of who’s better  3. Not causing others to stumble  4. Not stumbling yourselves  10:1-52 Jesus zones in on what discipleship looks like in major aspects of life  Standard for divorce and remarriage  Standard for wealth and possessions  Standard for power  Girls, gold, giddyup = Deuteronomy 17, standard for kings and standard for all so that he doesn’t turn away from God  Today we will focus on the standard for divorce and remarriage in 10:1-12.  Disclaimers:  -Less exhortational more teaching/teaching feel to it  -I might rock you and make you feel uncomfortable |
| 3  -I am not purposely trying to ruffle feathers  -I don’t desire to be driven out by pitchforks and dead cats through my window  -I am saying this out of desire to love and obey God’s Word and to love His people  -I hope to demonstrate that this is not from me but from the Lord  -Tell you not only what God’s word says but show you what it means by what it says  -You may not agree with me, but if you don’t please examine it for yourself whether it’s biblical or not  -I admit this is a difficult subject and it took me hours to study  -But just because a subject is difficult to  understand does not mean everyone’s thoughts on  it are equally true nor that we can’t arrive to a  reasonable conviction of what it says | 4  I hope you will see that what I am going to say today is consistent with:  -the grammar and syntax of Scripture  -theology  -literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture  -Some of it might be a little technical but I’m not trying to data dump your brain but because I find it necessary to understand this issue  -Above all don’t take my word for it but be like Bereans in Acts 17 who searched Scriptures to see if this was so  -I ask you have an open mind and a soft heart to what I am going to say  BODY:  Before we get into the text, we have to properly understood the context of Deut. 24:1-4 which is quoted to by the Pharisees, or else we won’t understand it correctly |
| 5  Turn to Deut. 24:1-4 (read)  Reminder: NT authors, including Jesus, do not make obsolete OT. They are not replacing the original meaning but only adding, clarifying, or supplying additional revelation.  Notice that Moses is prescribing this command “when” it happens.  Moses already knew Israel would do this because of their sin (“hardness of heart”)  Certificate of Divorce  1. To legally dissolve marriage (lengthy process to prevent hasty divorces from happening)  2. To protect woman from abuse from first husband and to show proof that she didn’t commit adultery so not to be stoned (Deut. 22)  He gave instructions to further prevent sin and pollution in the land. | 6  He calls it an “abomination.” What is that?  Well, it’s the woman coming back to her first husband because now she is polluted with her second husband joining back to her first husband  Israel is different than church today.  Yahweh desires land, people, everything to be holy and pure because He is holy.  EX: Achan in Joshua 6-7  Achan stole and hid goods from Joshua’s ban of Jericho.  -Disobeyed and sinned  When Israel went up against city of Ai they lost because Yahweh was not with them  When they got rid of Achan, his family, and the goods, they had victory for Yahweh was with them |
| 7  Josh 7:12 “I will not be with you anymore unless the things under the ban from your midst.  Going back to Deut 24  God made these laws to mitigate the spread of sin and to protect men from accusing them falsely of adultery or going back to a potentially abusive relationship.  Now we have proper context of Deut. 24  Now let’s begin Mark 10:3-12  V. 2 (read)  Pharisees come up to ensnare him, trap, test him.  We don’t know motive for trap.  Perhaps to get Jesus to end up like John the Baptist (dead) | 8  Perhaps to see which school Jesus was sided on?  -Shammai or Hillel?  Shammai = more conservative/only adultery  Hillel = more looser/divorce allowed for any reason  VV. 3-9 (read)  Jesus appeals to their Scripture and authority.  They respond with Deuteronomy 24:1-4  Jesus replies implying they misunderstood this verse to mean divorce is allowed when it is never allowed.  Jesus goes back to creation Genesis 2:24  -Permanence  V. 9  Jesus makes it extra clear that marriage is permanent, and man is not to break it  VV. 10-12 (read)  Then Jesus goes to issue of remarriage because those two are closely tied together. (If a woman got divorced, she would be serious trouble) |
| 9  Original intent of marriage is permanence.  That is why Mal. 2:16 “I hate divorce.”  Pharisees should have known.  Even when we do marriage vows = permanence  “Till death do us apart”  Jesus said was shocking and countercultural because in verse 10.  Jesus wasn’t raising standard of divorce and remarriage.  Same standard in OT: Deut. 22:28-30  “If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl’s father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he cannot divorce her all his days.” | 10  Deut. 22 = permanence  Jews misinterpreted law,  Jesus was just bringing law back up to speed/exposing true intent of Mosaic Law |
| 11  Luke 16:18 (read)  “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.”  Absolute statement similar to Mark  Luke: complimentary detail  Whoever marries one who “is” divorced (non-initiator) commits adultery because he is not recognizing that this man or woman is still married  That leaves Matthew and so called “exception clause.”  Turn to Matthew 5:31-32 (read)  Common objection to permanence of marriage  Context of sermon on the Mount. Context, context, context, remember context is king in how you interpret the Bible. | 12  Matt. 5:17 He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.  Correcting Pharisees’ misunderstanding of Law and revealing true meaning.  EX: 5:27 “You have heard it was said…  Not only external but internal purity of heart  Same construction in 5:31-32 (read V. 31)  Read closely: Jesus is not giving permission or allowance for divorce.  Try to read it without clause:  “Everyone who divorces his wife makes her commit adultery.” |
| 13  Plainly: Men who divorce their wives makes her commit adultery  Not put exception clause back in…  So what does this mean?  “unchastity”= sexual immorality (broad term)  Unless she herself was sexually unfaithful, all other reasons would make man guilty of making her adulterous  Pharisees thought they were clean and not guilty.  “Make her commit adultery”= awkward phrase  Passive Mood = “suffer” rather than active in Greek  Pharisees were concerned with what is a lawful divorce. | 14  Mishnah’s interpretation included Shammai and Hillel’s interpretation of Deut. 24:1-4 of what “something that is indecent about her”  Again, this is not saying if you find something indecent/unfavorable in your wife, then you can divorce her (which is what Pharisees misunderstood)  Jesus’ point: Marriage is serious and permanent.  Question of divorce and remarriage comes up again in Matt. 19:3-12 (read)!  Matt. 19 parallels 5:31-32 with slight difference and extra teaching  The man also is actually the adulterer in divorcing for a reason other than adultery of wife.  So if you divorce your wife because she was unfaithful to you, then you are not committing adultery, but your divorce was still wrong and not ideal in the sight of God |
| 15  These divorce texts are not answering in what scenario is divorce acceptable but what constitutes adultery.  Does not indicate divorce was the right thing to do. Why?  Because marriage is permanent  Again, disciples were so shocked with this statement that V. 10 (read)  Explain VV. 11-12  -some were born unable to procreate and thus to marry  -some were made unable to procreate violently by other men  -some choose to remain celibate and not get married for the sake of the kingdom  This is the standard of discipleship our Lord expects us to strive to | 16  Marriage bond is broken only when one or both parties die.  Consistent with Rom. 7:1-3  Turn there in your Bibles (read).  Paul is using the truth of marriage, divorce, and remarriage to illustrate another truth: V. 4  Another passage on divorce and remarriage 1 Cor. 7:10 (read)  Skip down to verse 15 (one exception to the rule, only divorce allowed in Scripture)  Why does believer have to allow unbeliever to leave marriage if they desire?  “bondage” = *dedoulotai* = verb form of *doulos* = slave  More accurate LSB Trans. = “enslaved” |
| 17  1 Cor. 7:39 (read)  V. 39 confirms Rom. 7:1-3  Now I want you to notice a crucial detail.  “bound” same word in Rom. 7:2 speaking to marriage bond.  Same word *deo* that’s why translated same word “bound.”  “bound”= specifically refers to marriage bond  But dedoulotai = trans. “bondage” is different Greek word in 1 Cor. 7:15  But some translations like NIV or Amplified Bible translate it “bound” which is confusing and unhelpful!  It’s not “bound”! | 18  With that in mind, and with context 1 Cor. 7:15 is not referring to being freed from bondage to marriage bond in the sense that the marriage bond is broken but being freed from staying in that marriage with that person.  Now what does this all mean for you?  I know some of you have been divorced and have been remarried:  What this does not mean is:  1. You are in perpetual adultery  2. You should divorce your current spouse to go back to the former one  3. That God can’t use you mightily and effectively for His kingdom. “Such were some of you right?”  -EX: Coworker who had a sordid past, two  daughters out of wedlock from two different  woman, became saved and is on fire for the Lord |
| 19  His consequences not erased when saved, oh boy! But he is being used mightily.  What this does mean:  1. Separation in the case of abuse but not divorce  It’s so hard to live with someone who cheated on you! Well, yes no doubt! But so is a life sentence!  If your husband commits murder and gets a life sentence, no divorce! You will end up single for rest of your life! That’s hard!  The point is: Your obedience can’t be based off of how hard a situation is or how difficult it is to carry out.  Your obedience is based off of what God’s Word says. What does His word say? | 20  “So pastor Teru are you saying that if an unbeliever abandons a believing spouse, then that believing spouse is to remain single forever unless the unbelieving spouse dies or they get married to each other again?  Yes  Are you saying that if a wife cheated on her husband and left him for another man, that husband is to remain single forever unless the wife dies, or they get reconciled back together  Yes!  Yes, I know it’s shocking right?  Again, Matt. 19:10 the disciples felt the same way  You might say “that’s unfair: why does the spouse have to suffer for the rest of their life from the sinful actions of another?” |
| 21  Why? Because that is at the very heart of the gospel!  It is a picture of the gospel!  It is a picture of how much God loves you and does not count your sins against you.  Christ was the ultimate example of suffering the consequences of the sin of sinful men. He suffered for something he did not do!!!  Let me ask you a question:  Has Christ, and does Christ ever leave you or forsake you?  That is why Paul connected marriage to love that Christ has for the church.  Eph. 5:31 = Gospel significance in Gen. 2:24  “This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.” | 22  Love that husband and wife has meant to symbolize Christ and the church.  Does our sin ever take away Christ’s love for us? No  In the same way, as difficult as it is, we are to forgive and seek after them just as Christ forgave us and sought after us.  Culture of world emphasizes happiness. Do what makes you happy.  Unfortunately, this has infected the church.  Gold standard = what makes me happy instead of what glorifies and pleases God the most?  Let me break it to you, Christian life is not about our happiness (important part, but not main part)  It is about denying self, taking up your cross, and following Him |
| 23  It is about serving others rather than self 10:45  It is about considering others as more important than yourself Phil. 2  Thankfully God did not leave you in the dark and just say “well that kind of sucks, but you have to remain single for the rest of your life.”  He is not asking for blind obedience, He wants you to understand why He is commanding this:  Because by you not giving up on your unfaithful spouse and patiently showing your love for Him, you are literally reenacting and display the Christ’s love to your spouse.  We’re willing to endure suffering and being persecuted for Christ’s sake even if there is a possibility that one person might come to Christ, right? | 24  Why aren’t we willing to do the same for marriage?  This is the amazing love that Christ has for you. It is beautiful.  Perhaps most powerful illustration of this in the Bible is in the book of Hosea.  Remember Hosea?  Commanded to marry Gomer prostitute, even have children with her, knowing that Gomer would keep practicing her prostitution.  World will say today! Hosea, who in their right mind would marry someone that will always be unfaithful to him?  Who in their right mind would go out their way and suffer for the sins of that other spouse?  Why don’t you just make it easier for yourself and divorce her and marry someone who is faithful to you! |
| 25  Does that story sound familiar to you?  It is the precisely the point (1 Cor. 13:8)  Hosea would have to chase Gomer, rescue her from the prostitution market and perverted men and bring her home again, and again, and again, and again and again.  This is what God does for you! You went after your sin again and again and again and again and God chased after you to rescue you from it and woo you back to himself again and again and again and again.  He could have you left to your own misery and demise, but He didn’t.  Hosea was a type of Christ to come where one day all of our lusts, adulteries, idolatries, and sins would be put to rest once and for all on that bloody cross. | 26  He died for you so that He can put the Holy Spirit inside of you, His engagement ring on your finger, as an eternal sign promising to come back for you one day to make you His bride in the marriage supper of the Lamb.  Come to Christ, turn away from your lusts and receive this unspeakable love that Christ has for you. Let’s pray. |