

Scripture this week:

Mark 10:1-12

¹And 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. ²And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." ⁵And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." ¹⁰And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

What We Learn About Faith by Talking About Divorce

Mark 10:1-12

Todd Chapman - April 14, 2019

Those who follow Jesus happily embrace God's design for life - including marriage.

God did make a concession on His original design for marriage.

God's design for marriage is and has always been for a lifetime.

Pursue God's design in marriage, it's really special, not to be taken lightly.

Pre-Life Group Study Questions:

Notes:

Mark 10:1-12

What does the text mean?

1. Summarize chapter 9 in terms of what Jesus taught. Who was most of this teaching directed at?
2. Why does Mark include that teaching was Jesus' "*custom*" in verse 1? What would that mean to the disciples witnessing this first-hand? Reading this as the original audience for Mark? For us, today?
3. What is the Pharisees' motivation for their question to Jesus? Why?
4. The Pharisees are referencing Deuteronomy 24 in verse 4. How does knowing the Old Testament law help us understand this text?
5. How does Jesus' answer in verses 5-10 point the Pharisees to the overall idea of the law? What point does he make in verse 5 to shift the focus of the Pharisees question?
6. Why might the disciples ask Jesus again about his teachings on divorce? Why might Jesus need to state divorce from both the man and woman's situation?
7. In Jesus' overall response to questions on divorce, is he providing specific rules that we are expected to follow? If not, what point is he making?

How does it apply?

1. Jesus' response to the Pharisees appeals to God's creation intent for marriage. How might this approach change how we think about marriage and divorce? How might this change the way we think about and interpret both the law and Jesus' teaching? How can we help others see that?
2. We live in a culture that is torn between a black and white view of divorce or only shades of gray. What does it mean for us to be increasingly devoted to knowing what we believe and standing for it? How can we stand up for our beliefs on divorce specifically?
3. Marriage is one piece of God's plan. How can we lovingly help each other align all our thinking and living with God's word?