

An open scroll with Hebrew text is the central focus, set against a dark background. To the left, a wooden handle with a decorative, fluted design is visible. The scroll is unrolled, showing several lines of text in a traditional Hebrew script. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the scroll and the wood of the handle.

# The Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 10

# Mark: Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.

**Mark 10:1**

- The people came to Jesus...
  - Some for healing, some out of curiosity...
- Note Jesus' 'modus operandi' i.e. what He typically did
  - He taught them!
- When we come to Jesus, He will teach us!

# Mark: Chapter 10

2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?

tempting him.

Mark 10:2

- The Pharisees were not looking to an answer to this question...
- They just wanted to trap Jesus by asking what (they perceived) was an unanswerable question

# Divorce

- Divorce is a difficult topic, and something that has caused much pain to many.
- We live in a disposable 'throw-away' society
- The world teaches that 'marriage' is all about what we can take out of it for ourselves!
- If we are not getting what we want... move on!
- The world has forgotten that marriage was ordained by God – He alone has the blueprint!
- The Pharisees had come to Jesus, they were about to get their lesson!

# Divorce

- Divorce was a controversial topic in Jesus' day, with two main schools of thought centered around two of its most famous proponents.
- The first was the school of **Rabbi Hillel**
  - He espoused a lenient and popular view
- The second was the school of **Rabbi Shammai**
  - He taught a strict but unpopular view.

# Divorce

- Matthew's account of this conversation helps us to understand the question the Pharisees asked:
- *“The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for just any reason?”* Matthew 19:3
- The debate centered around the Mosaic law that gave permission for divorce
- *“When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement”* Deuteronomy 24:1
- The question the rabbis tried to answer was  
“What constitutes uncleanness?”

# Divorce

- Rabbi Shammai contended that ‘uncleanness’ meant sexual immorality, and said that was the only valid reason for divorce.
- But Rabbi Hillel understood uncleanness to mean any sort of indiscretion
  - even to the point of burning the breakfast being valid grounds for divorce!
- This is why the Pharisees thought they’d ‘got Jesus’ with this one!
- Would He risk losing His popularity by being ‘hard line-leagalistic’ or been seen to say the publicly acceptable thing!

# Mark: Chapter 10

3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses **command you?**

4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

**Mark 10:3-4**

- **Note Jesus question!**
- Moses did not **command** divorce; Moses **permitted** it. This went against the teaching of Rabbi Hillel, who taught that it was a *righteous duty* to divorce your wife if she displeased you in *any* way.
- The rabbis of that day had a saying, “*If a man has a bad wife, it is a religious duty to divorce her.*” Jesus went against this way of thinking.



# Mark: Chapter 10

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

**Mark 10:5**

- “The Mosaic law granting divorce was a concession to the hardness of your heart. It was never commanded by God but permitted because of the hardness of the offending party (in the cruelty of their unfaithfulness to their spouse). It was also permitted because of the hardness of the offended party (being unable to perfectly forgive and restore a damaged relationship). – **David Guzik**

# Mark: Chapter 10

6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

**Mark 10:6**

- Note Adam & Eve were created at the beginning!
- Not after long [imagined] periods of time!
- The Theory of Evolution is non-science and nonsense!
- It should be rejected by scientists, as it contravenes all known scientific laws and has zero supporting evidence
- It should also be rejected by all Christians – who have God's Word to explain what really happened!

# Man Created Male & Female

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen 1:27

The Hebrew text reads as follows:

God      In His resemblance      In His resemblance      Man      Alpha & Omega      God      Created out of nothing

אלהים Eloheim	בצל tseh-lem	בצלמו tseh-lem	האדם adam	את ?	אלהים Eloheim	ויברא bara
------------------	-----------------	-------------------	--------------	---------	------------------	---------------



him	created out of nothing	female	male	him	created out of nothing
אתם: 'eth	ברא bara	ונקבה neqebah	זכר zakar	אתו 'eth	ברא bara

# Mark: Chapter 10

7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother **and cleave** to his wife;

8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

**Mark 10:7-8**

- The word 'cleave' comes from an Old-English word that has two meanings: to break apart, and to join tightly together.
- That might seem like a paradox, but that is exactly the meaning intended in the original Hebrew and captures perfectly the Biblical idea of marriage.
- Marriage is both the breaking apart - leaving behind all that has been up to that moment - and a wonderful joining together of two lives into one.

# Mark: Chapter 10

7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

8 And they twain shall be **one flesh**; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

**Mark 10:7-8**

- The 'woman' part was taken out of man, but through marriage (which by the way, God invented so only He can define it – and He does, as the union between one man and one woman!!) man and woman are joined together and become one again – do you see that divorce is like ripping part of your own self away

# Marriage

- The term joined to his wife has the idea of gluing two things together. “Be glued to her... A husband ought to be as firm to his wife as to himself.” (Trapp)
- The term Jesus uses for joined together is literally yoked together. Like two animals yoked together, couples must work together and head the same way to really be joined the way God wants them to be joined.
- Here there is a new and overriding unity. The bond between a husband and wife should be even stronger than the bond between parent and child. The marriage bond should be stronger than the blood-bond. *“And the law of God was not, that a man should forsake his wife whenever he had a mind to it, but that he should rather forsake his father and mother than his wife; loving his wife as his own body.”* (Poole)

# Mark: Chapter 10

<sup>9</sup> What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

<sup>10</sup> And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

**Mark 10:9-10**

- In using the terms joined together and separate, Jesus reminded us that divorce is really like an amputation. Sometimes in the most extreme circumstances, amputation may be the right thing to do. But the patient must first have a diagnosis worthy of such an extreme solution.



# Mark: Chapter 10

- 11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.
- 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

**Mark 10:11-12**



# Concluding Remarks

- In Matthew's more complete recording of this teaching, he noted how Jesus said, *"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery"* (Matthew 19:9).
- With this answer, Jesus interpreted the meaning of the word uncleanness in Deuteronomy 24:1, showing that divorce (and the freedom to remarry) was only permitted in the case of sexual immorality.

# Concluding Remarks

- The ancient Greek word for sexual immorality is 'porneia'. It is a broad word and it covers a wide span of sexual impropriety. One may be guilty of porneia without actually having consummated an act of adultery. – David Guzik
- Paul adds permission for divorce in the case of abandonment by an unbelieving spouse 1 Cor 7:15

# Concluding Remarks

- The reason why a person who does not have a legitimate divorce commits adultery upon remarrying (as well as their new spouse) is because they are not divorced in the eyes of God. Since their old marriage is still valid, they are actually guilty of bigamy and adultery.
- This means that as God looks down from heaven, He does not have three categories: single, married, and divorced. He has two categories: single and married. You are either bound under a marriage vow or you are not. If you are bound, you can't marry another. If you are not bound, you are free to marry in the Lord. Understanding the whole counsel of God on this subject frees people from the stigma of "divorced" in the church. – David Guzik

An open scroll with Hebrew text is shown against a dark background. The scroll is unrolled, revealing several lines of text in a traditional Hebrew font. To the left of the scroll is a wooden handle, likely for a scroll. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the scroll and the wood of the handle.

# The Gospel of Mark

To be continued...