

Love, Dates, Heartbreaks, and Kids

Lesson 6

Genesis 2:18-25; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9;

Mark 10:1-12

April 24, 2022

When Heartbreak Hits

INTRODUCTION

Any woodworker knows that gluing two pieces of wood together makes a permanent bond that is usually stronger than the wood itself. Pulling them apart usually damages both pieces.

God hates divorce. This might be a cliché, but it's built upon a fundamental truth. Marriage was invented by God; divorce was created by man. Divorce takes a bond that was designed by God and rips it apart, so damage is inevitable.

The Jewish legal system of the day turned divorce into a matter of convenience. When the Pharisees asked Jesus what he thought about divorce (a question for which there was no "right" answer), Jesus flipped the script by emphasizing God's intent for marriage and the severity of ripping apart its bonds. At the heart of Jesus' response is the sacredness of marriage. When we divorce because it's quickest and easiest to just end a marriage, we destroy lives because we are destroying a God-made bond.

Memory verse: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."—Romans 8:28

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus? (Mark 10:2)
2. Why did Jesus say that Moses wrote the law? (Mark 10:5)
3. Who did Jesus say created marriage? (Gen 2:18-25; Mark 10:5-9)
4. Who did Jesus say could separate what God has created? (Mark 10:9)
5. The Pharisees were asking about the ability of a man to quickly and conveniently divorce his wife. What did Jesus equate this type of divorce to? (Mark 10:11-12)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Why do you think the Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce? Were they really curious about his response, or were they trying to trap him? A Biblical commentary might help to answer this. (Matthew 19:3; Mark 10:2)

2. What does it say about Jesus' outlook on divorce that he directs the conversation away from divorce and to a discussion about the purpose and holiness of marriage? (Mark 10:6-9)

3. God created marriage immediately after the 7 days of Creation. What does this say about the significance of marriage? (Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:5-9)

4. Jesus equated the quick and easy divorces that the Pharisees were asking about to adultery. Jesus was saying that conveniently divorcing one's spouse was equivalent to cheating on them. Given God's plan for marriage, why do you think Jesus would say this? (Genesis 2:22-24; Mark 10:1-12)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. If you've experienced divorce first hand, or have been in a household where divorce occurred, think about that, and write down how it affected you and the others. Pray for healing for all that were affected. (Malachi 2:13-16; Mark 10:1-12)

