# **The Gospel According to St. Mark**

**Mark 10:1-16**

**Concordia Commentary – Dr. James Voelz, 2019**

## **Mark 10:1-12 – The Hard Truth**

* *Even* beyond the Jordan
  + The Greek leads us to an emphasis of Jesus going to this region
  + First century AD, this was a Jewish populated area under the control of Herod Antipas
  + An indication of Jesus’ move towards Jerusalem
* A test for Jesus
  + How much does Jesus know?
    - Looking to fail Him in light of their desires.
    - Also remember that Satan looked to test Jesus…
      * Therefore who is in cahoots with the devil?
  + Is divorce permissible by the Law of God?
    - Note Matthew 19:3’s all encompassing nature of the question.
    - The Pharisees are more than likely referencing Malachi 2:14-16 rather than Deuteronomy 24:1-4.
* A test for the Pharisees
  + What about Moses?
    - Note #1:
      * “Moses” wrote
      * Not the oral Law
      * Deuteronomy 24:1, 3
    - Note #2:
      * “command you”
        + Not us!
        + We see a distance between Jesus and the Pharisees.
* A Pharisee response
  + They go to Deuteronomy 24:1
* Jesus gets to the “heart” of the matter
  + Neither God’s original design or the reign and rule of God envisions the hardness of a heart.
    - Ezekiel 36:26-27
    - Jeremiah 31:33-34
    - Psalm 51:10
  + “Moses wrote”
    - God handed down through Moses
  + Genesis 2:24
    - Jesus goes to the created order
  + “and cleave to his wife”
    - Omitted by most manuscripts
  + Two become one
    - Note the repetition
    - Jesus emphasizes that the male and female are made complementary to each other and deliberately so
      * Not male and male
      * Not female and female
* Jeremiah 3:8-9
  + - Relationships/Connections are important to Jesus
      * 2:27, 7:21-22
      * The relationship between husband and wife is critical for a proper understanding of the relationship between God/Jesus and His bride, the church.
        + Joel 3:1-*2*
        + Ephesians 5:29-33
  + God Joins/Man Separates
    - In divorce, human activity is contrary to the will of God.
  + Remarriage is messy
    - Marriage is a *true union* created by God
    - No exception statements in Mark
      * Matthew 19:9
      * 1 Corinthians 7:15
    - Jesus is contrasting God’s original plan/design/creation and Mosaic regulations
* Pandora’s Box is opened
  + Jesus now declares that questions looking for divorce/getting out of a marriage are not to be embraced by those who are under Jesus’ reign.
    - Divorce is not a part of God’s original design.
    - Under Christ, hearts will be led by the Spirit and not self-hardened
      * Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26
  + Can this be attainable as we wrestle with sinful, hardened-hearts until Jesus returns?
    - The reality of 7:20-22 hits
      * Along with 9:47!
    - We need salt!
      * 9:50
      * By this agent, the relationships that are of God’s design ARE possible!
    - *Simul justus et peccator*
* Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage in Jesus’ day
  + Marriage was a social and legal contract between two families to promote both families; interests in offspring and property.
    - Dowry
    - Ketubah
      * A written document by a Jewish bridegroom detailing the money provided by him to the bride in the event of his death or divorcing of her.
  + Under Emperor Augustus, lifelong marriage and fidelity are highly honored.
    - Yet divorce happened
      * The woman and her dowry were returned to the family
      * Men initiated divorce
        + Though could be initiated by a male member of the woman’s family
  + In Jewish context,
    - Deuteronomy 24:1-4 is important with manipulation of verse 1 being key.
      * Unchastity within the life of the woman
        + Or if she spoiled a dish for him
        + Or if he found someone better looking
        + Or if she breaks a Law of Moses
      * Defects in the man
        + If his physical nature is compromised

Boils

Being a collector of dog excrement, coppersmith, or tanner

* + - * What if he is lost at sea, she remarries, and he comes back alive? (the movie Cast Away with Tom Hanks).
        + Both marriages are annulled with a bill of divorce from each man.
        + Children are declared bastards
    - Malachi 2:10-16
    - John the Baptist’s call against Herod and – in 6:
    - Remarriage was feasible for both parties, yet great concern over marrying a divorced woman.

## **Mark 10:13-16 – When Hard Hearts Continue**

* Children under 7 are being brought to Jesus to touch
  + Why?
    - Blessing (if we read on…)
    - Touch is associated with healing
* The disciples are showing their hard hearts
  + And Jesus is REALLY irritated with this!
  + “Stop preventing them!”
    - Just said this to the disciples in 9:39
  + Not just them, but *such sort* of children
    - Not just children are to be hindered from coming to Jesus
  + “If you don’t receive the reign and rule of God like a kid, you will not enter it!”
    - The “child” has nothing to bring/offer to Jesus
      * Total dependance upon His grace/mercy
    - How is it that the disciples/modern day hearers, reject those whom they do not think are “worthy”
* Jesus blesses