# **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