



LESSON 108 - MARK 10:1-12

1And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts(borders) of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont (accustomed to do), he taught them again. **2**And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. **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. **5**And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. **6**But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. **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. **9**What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. **10**And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. **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.

Questions

1. Where does "thence" refer to?
2. What direction is Judea from there?
3. What does "Jordan" refer to? What side of it was Jesus on when He stopped to teach?
4. What does the word "again" tell you about Jesus?
5. What was the motivation of the Pharisees when they asked Him the question about divorce?
 - b. Why would they want to do that?
 - c. Why would they particularly want to tempt Jesus?
6. To what did Jesus direct them, when they asked the question about divorce?
7. What does it show about the Pharisees that they could quote the scripture Jesus referred to?
 - b. If someone asked you how to be saved, or what God thinks about a certain topic, could you help them find the answer?
8. What did Jesus mean when He said, "For the hardness of your heart", Moses established the possibility of divorcement?
9. In vs 6-9, what principles do we learn about what Jesus believed marriage should be?

Possible answers

1. Capernaum in Galilee... in the northern part of Israel.

2. South

3. The Jordan River...east side...It was the custom of the Jews to avoid traveling through Samaria. They came south from Galilee down the far side(eastern) of the Jordan River through Jericho and into Judaea.

4. Teaching was His custom. As the Holy Spirit led Him, He used every opportunity to teach the people spiritual principles.

5. They wanted to tempt Him, to trip Him up.

b. They wanted to feel superior, because they thought they knew more about the law than anyone. Remember they considered Him just an upstart Nazarene carpenter.

c. Jesus had many followers and the Pharisees were jealous of His popularity and His power. They wanted to "dethrone" Him in the people's eyes. If they could find an error in His teaching, they could denounce Him as a heretic to the people.

6. The scriptures

7. They had memorized scriptures.

8. Divorce was not something that God wanted. Jesus quotes the marriage ceremony between Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Marriage was meant to be a covenant not to be broken as long as the two people were living on Earth. God could have made one man and six women to be the marriage standard, if that was the best choice, but He didn't. He chose one man and one woman to be the only ideal marriage and His standard.

God's ways are right, good and best for mankind. As long as people base their lives and choices on what God has said or indicated as right, they will be blessed. Anytime they depart from God's standard and substitute their own, be it immorality, polygamy or homosexuality, they sin. The marriage covenant was meant to be the picture to the world of the union between Christ and His Bride. Marriage, therefore, is sacred and holy. Any departure from God's choice for marriage is a distortion of the picture God wanted the world to have as a testimony of how to live godly.

Some married men, in the hardness of their hearts and wanting to be free, would have murdered their wives, if they had not been able to divorce them. Divorce protected the woman. The hardness of the man's heart developed because he wasn't the husband he should have been to his wife. He started looking at other women (v 11, Matt 5:28), and he refused to repent of his ungodly spiritual condition. Hardness of the heart first starts with a person's diminishing relationship with God. Read James 1:13-15 to understand the steps toward sin and its consequence.

Principle: We can become hard of heart when we receive instruction from the Lord through His Word and messengers, but we fail to heed it and obey. Hardness of heart can be a result of disobedience in things God has already told us to do. It can also develop when we go against what we know is right, or when difficult things happen and we blame God for it or fail to follow His direction in it.

Here are some examples of hardness of heart: Mk 3:5 4And (Jesus) saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. 5And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith

unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Mk 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Rom 2:5 4... do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Proverbs 28:14 He that hardens his heart shall fall into mischief (calamity- NKJ).

9. Principles of marriage:

"Fom the beginning... God made..."

Marriage was ordained and designed by God. Therefore, as His design, it has His blessing on it. God intended for a man and woman to be legally and spiritually committed to each other. This was to protect both parties and their offspring.

"God made them male and female"

Marriage is between a male and a female. It is not for any other combination of beings.

"A man shall leave his (parents)..."

This represents the cutting of the apron strings of a man's childhood. It establishes him as a responsible adult, an authority, not under his parents' rulership any longer, one who was to establish himself as the spiritual, sacrificial and loving leader in the home.

"...and cleave unto his wife"

"Cleave" means "to glue yourself." So the husband is to consider himself glued to the wife, not his parents. That means he makes her his consideration, his confidante, his best friend, etc. To help her is to help himself; to love her is to love himself; to protect her is to protect himself, etc.

If a man is glued to his wife, then they are one flesh. This is symbolized in the marriage act, pictured in the birth of the child of that union. Even though the couple can have different interests and hobbies, there should be a oneness of commitment to God and to each other, a loyalty, a desire to please each other, if need be, to sacrifice for the good of the other, and to submit to each other (Ephesians 5:21).

"What God has joined..."

Marriage was the first institution God established. It was to symbolize God's love for Israel and Christ's love for His bride, the Church. It was to be a sacred picture of a holy, love-filled relationship, so that all would understand what real love was.

"Let not man put asunder".

Satan entered in to entice man with temptations that would, if taken, distort this picture of God's love.

But Satan can only offer the temptations; man has to choose to take the bait of sin. He doesn't have to; he can choose to live in the abundant life and blessing, and walk in the wisdom of doing God's will.

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