

JESUS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—October 15th, 2023

Mark 10:1-12

(ESV)

[1] *And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.*

[2] *And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” [3] He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” [4] They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” [5] And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. [6] But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ [7] ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, [8] and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. [9] What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

[10] *And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. [11] And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, [12] and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus helps us understand that God’s purposes in our lives, though often difficult and challenging, ultimately lead us to flourishing.

THE WRONG QUESTION

This was the wrong question

1. This question was designed to test Jesus.

Matthew 4:7–[7] *“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

2. This question assumed that morality was born out of the law.

Romans 5:20–[20] *Now the law came in to increase the trespass...*

The law was not given so we could look at it and see our righteousness; the law was given so our sins could be revealed.

AN INADEQUATE PROVISION

Shammai = a conservative rabbinical house / divorce in the case of adultery only

Hillel = a liberal house / divorce for any reason

Galatians 3:19–[19] *Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made...*

The Law couldn't change hard hearts, but Jesus came to transform the hearts of men.

Ezekiel 36:26–27–[26] *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

God's purpose for marriage is the pursuit of faithfulness and sacrifice, and only in Christ these things are ultimately possible!

THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

In creation (Genesis 1 and 2) God has already told us all that we need to know to live godly and faithful lives.

Marriage is not a contract, but a covenant—a relationship that is not based on rules but on promises.

What are these promises?

A man must leave his father and mother.

Malachi 2:15–[15] *Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

A man must also hold fast to his wife.

Hebrews 10:23—*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

Ephesians 5:31–32–[31] *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*