

Mark 10:6-12

“Caution! Marriage Construction Zone!”

I. Introduction

II. Vs. 6-12 The purpose, plan and problem of marriage

I. Introduction

Two weeks ago we began the passage looking at the question imposed by the Pharisees to entrap Jesus. In answering the question of “*Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?*”

This week we see that Jesus further answers this question on divorce by examining the original purpose of marriage. The point of emphasis seems to be, “*Why focus of the termination of the marriage instead of examining how to have a healthy marriage?*” Most

of us will immediately recognize the words of verses 6-9 as they are most often quoted during their marriage ceremony. *The real problem isn't divorce but marriage. Divorce just reveals the problem that already exists, which is the difficulties of being motivated and committed to stay together.* In quoting Genesis chapter 5 verses and chapter 2 verse

24 Jesus deals with **three aspects with regards to marriage:**

- Vs. 6 **The PURPOSE of marriage:** “*But from the beginning God made them male and female*”
- Vs. 7 **The PLAN of marriage:** “*for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife*”
- Vs. 8-9 **The PROBLEM of marriage:** “*and the two shall become one flesh, so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*”

II. Vs. 6-9 The purpose, plan and problem of marriage

Vs. 6 **The PURPOSE of marriage:** “*But from the beginning God made them male and female*”. Jesus took them back: Before the state of society in which they were living, before the word of Moses which was born out of the hardness of hearts, before the habits

of people in the past, Jesus took them all the way back to the beginning from creation, where the Creator had a purpose in His creation that required a plan then needed to be carried out by obedient hearts. Jesus says that the two distinct sexes was His idea, it was all apart of His design. He made humans biologically and psychologically different from each other not so that they would COMPETE with each other but so that they would COMPLETE and COMPLEMENT each other. **Much of the struggles within the marriage is do to a lack of understanding and appreciating God's original design in the differences.** Humans are three dimensional beings: Body, soul and spirit! Physically, in the body men and women are visibly and notably different. The difference is NOT to be thought of as better or worse, just different. But men and women are also different in the psyche or soul as their emotional make up is different by design. Many in society, such as the modern feminists, want to dissolve these created differences but nothing they do can change these visible difference. A lot of the feminist's arguments began as counter attacks to the abusive attitudes of men, that exclude them from equal pay for equal work, the right to not be harassed by men simply because of their physical differences and the right to publically vote in a democratic election. But unfortunately the modern feminist chose to ignore the Created differences between men and women and in so doing created more social injustice. For example, the modern feminist wanted to be sexually promiscuous like men without consequences, so they created the false idea that being in charge over their own bodies gave them the right to be over the offspring in their bodies. Calling this their "Choice" while ignoring the reality that their choice gave them legal rights that men never had, to terminate life! And with this legal right they have committed genocide as well as Gender-O-cide as over 1/2 of those that they have "*chosen*" to

terminate would have been female in gender. Men and women are different and their differences ought to be celebrated not obliterated as God by His design created that way from the beginning. But there is one way in which they are identical in trifold creation and that is in their “spirit”. Paul wrote of this truth in Galatians 3:28 saying, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave of free, there is neither MALE or FEMALE; for you are all one in Christ.*” Paul speaks of a “*godly feminism*” not one that demands the right to take a life but one that is free to experience LIFE in total equality alongside their brothers in the family of God. In Christ we can truly enjoy the distinctions of the sexes in a harmonious way that doesn’t make demands or lord over each other but respects and enjoys the completeness that the two bring together that compliments each other.

Vs. 7 **The PLAN of marriage**: “*for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.*” Jesus says that God had a plan as He quotes Genesis, “**For this reason**”. The reason that humans were made male and female was so that we would be joined to one another and become one. This passage does away with two currently acceptable practices with regards to marriage:

- a. **It destroys the false notion of same sex marriage**: It take a man and a woman to have a marriage, He didn’t make them male and male or female and female, simple biology reaffirms this truth. The current legislative practice of same sex marriage goes against the biology of God’s plan as they can not be joined and become one flesh. The courts may attempt to reaffirm their liberal agenda but they will be unable to change the simple biology of the truth. It takes two distinct and very different sexes to make a marriage and no amount of legislation or court cases will ever be able to change this fact.
- b. **It destroys plural marriages or polygamy**: The text is very plan as it says, “a **MAN** (*Singular*) shall leave his father and mother (*not fathers and mothers*) and be joined to his **WIFE** (*Singular*). And the **TWO** (*not three, four, five etc.*) shall be **ONE** (*not MANY*) flesh.” Marriage is clearly by plan designed to be one man and one woman joined for life!

Further more God's design is that the marriage relationship is to be the highest earthly relationship possible in this life. Marriage is to take priority over all other human relationships, business, friendships, familial and even parental. Jesus doesn't say that they shall be PARTNERS, a TEAM, a CORPERATION, or a UNION. No He says that their relationship is to be the most intense of all relationships as they will no longer be TWO they will become ONE! God's plan for marriage: Taking two distinct and very different individuals, male and female, with different backgrounds, education, experiences, talents and gifts. And blending their lives together so completely that they are ONE flesh not two any longer. Jesus quotes Genesis and says that this work isn't instantaneous instead **it is a process** as they shall "BECOME" one flesh. God's plan is not that a man and woman would live together as separate individuals like roommates. They aren't to allow the differences to separate them, instead those differences are to drive them to the Lord so that they will die to self and love their spouse. Apart from this a marriage becomes a place where two opposites compete as rivals, instead of working together, pulling for each other as ONE. Can you imaging if our bodies acted out what many marriages look like? Stub your toe and the mouth barks down to your foot, "*What an idiot you are, can't even do the simplest of tasks of putting one foot in front of the other.*" A successful marriage isn't a **PRODUCT** of marrying the "*right person*" it is a **PROCESS** of each person working each and every day at becoming the "*right person*"!

Vs. 8-12 **The PROBLEM of marriage:** "*and the two shall become one flesh, so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefor what God has joined together, let not man separate.*" Jesus finishes with His third and final point about marriage, that **marriage is a journey, not a destination.** When the process is ended by one or both of the parties it's

going to be painful as you are pulling apart two that have been joined into one back into two which is always going to injure both. Jesus examines this beyond the scope of present Jewish life as His illustration to His disciples when questioned further included husband's and wife's and presently only husbands could divorce. Both would be equally liable to maintain purity and faithfulness in the marriage. The phrase, "*What God has joined together*" isn't a reference to the wedding ceremony, instead it is a reference to the mystical spiritual union that takes place within a marriage. God does this working through every aspect of a relationship, intimacy, conflicts, trials, victories as well as defeats all shape two souls into one as they tend to reveal hard places of our own hearts that need to be broken down and made soft. It is this softening that causes us to have Christ like characteristics in our marriage. Every newlywed ought to have a sign up in their first home together so all can read it regularly to remind them. The sign should be: "***Caution!!! God at Work, Construction Zone***".

When Jesus was alone with His disciples they wanted further clarification on the matter of marriage and divorce and Jesus chose a powerful illustration of what the separation is like that each person would understand the sense of destruction when we attempt to pull apart what God has joined. The illustration was adultery. Intimacy is an important part of marriage, it's a visible picture of what marriage ought to be and why God reserved intimacy for marriage. Intimacy *begins with two separate, different and opposite people coming together in mutual surrender, for the purpose of enjoying each other by giving each other pleasure and by becoming one physically, emotionally and spiritually for a period of time followed by a lingering since of contentment and peace!* It is this very act reserved for marriage that God wanted to create new human life from as a

further illustration of two becoming one. *This passage doesn't say that the person who remarries after divorce will LIVE in adultery, but that it is like an ACT of adultery.*

These words were to cause the person living in a marriage a moment of sobriety, a time of reflection to contemplate the responsibility they may have in a failing relationship. Their focus must not be on what the other person is or isn't doing but what they are or aren't doing. Divorce cause this kind of destruction in what God has created but I don't believe Jesus is suggesting that there is never any reason for it only that what lies behind it is hardness of one or both hearts. Over the years of serving the Lord and witnessing the destruction of hard heartedness in relationships I've had a front row seat to events that I wish I didn't have to witness. I've been their when one spouse has committed adultery, I've seen what when one spouse's hard heartedness seen in them physically hurting the other, when addictions to drugs, alcohol and other criminal behavior has destroyed what God has made into one. I don't tell what people that they have to stay or leave in a marriage where such abuse as happened it isn't my decision and I'm not the person having to live through what they are living through nor am I the person going to have to live through the tearing away from what God has joined together, they are.

The teaching is that marriage is unity and not a unit, that marriage requires duality but is not two instead two working as one. He teaches that humanities design is the union of fatherhood and motherhood. That together they make up a typology of the Godhead.