

Mark 10:1-12 *Marriage & Divorce—Serious Stuff.* Just like now, what constituted legitimate marriage and legitimate divorce was a touchstone for theological conservatism. Hoping to catch the Lawmaker in a quandary, the religious right thought they had Him... Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife? They asked.

Yeshua asked—*Well, what does the Law say?*

Quoting Deuteronomy 24, at least part of it, they said the Law permits a man to write a certificate of divorce, and then send it her away.⁹

Yeshua was not impressed—

Moses wrote that so you wouldn't hurt women—your hearts are so hard. In the beginning we made people male and female and it is for this reason that men are to leave their father & mother and unite with their wives—the two bodies of flesh become one body by doing this.

Ergo? Whatever we have joined together, you knuckleheads are not to separate!

When in private, the His followers followed up—*Here it is, folks, anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And, if she divorces her husband (note the shift in emphasis, especially for that time) and marries another, she also commits adultery.*

- Q When the religious right questioned Jesus about divorce, to what source of evidence did He turn?
- Q What does the Law say about divorce, then? See also Matthew 19:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-16.
- Q When a woman has sexual intercourse with a man who is not her husband, is that fornication or adultery? And, when a man has sexual intercourse with a woman who is not his wife, is that fornication or adultery?
- Q Why did Lifeway leave this out of the quarterly lesson for today?
- Q Why were the followers of Jesus the Christ surprised by His analysis of the Law regarding divorce?

⁹If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

—Deuteronomy 24:1-4

MARK 10:1-12

Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them.

2Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

3"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

4They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

5"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. 6"But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.' [Genesis 1:7] 7'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8and the two will become one flesh.' [Genesis 2:24] So they are no longer two, but one.

9Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

10When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. 11He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. 12And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

Mark 10:13-31 *Jesus the Counter-Man*. People loved their children during the time when the Christ was on earth; they often brought them to have Jesus touch their children. His followers wanted nothing of that, and told the children to mind their own business, get out of the Master's way.

Jesus the Christ was not happy; in fact, He was indignant, grievously incensed [ἀγανακτέω, 23].

Let them come to Me, He said, Do not stop them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child... will never enter it.

And then He gathered the children into His arms, put His hands on them and praised them by speaking well of them [εὐλογέω, 2127].

As He was leaving, a well-off dude clambered up to Jesus, knelt and asked *Good teacher* [Διδάσκαλε, 1320]—*what must I do to inherit eternal life?*

Jesus interrupted him—why do you call me “good?” No one but Father God is good. You know the Law—don't murder, commit adultery, or steal, or lie under oath, or defraud people, and honor your parents.

Teacher, I've kept all these since I was a boy. Jesus was heartbroken—He loved the young man—*One thing you haven't got... Sell everything, give it to the poor, and you'll have treasure in heaven. Then come, and ... Follow Me.*

He was despondent and left sad because he had great wealth.

How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! The students freaked, but Yeshua persisted...*Children* [He called them], *how hard it is to*

MARK 10:13-31

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone." ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.' [Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20]

²⁰"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is [some mss read *for those who trust in riches*] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

²⁸Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

²⁹"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

enter the Kingdom of God. It's easier to thread a camel through a needle. Now they were really freaked, saying among themselves—just then who can be saved?

With humankind alone, it is indeed impossible, Yeshua noted, but with God all things are possible. Peter was not impressed—we've already left it all for You. Jesus reminded them, *Amen, no one who has left it all will fail to receive a 100 times as much in this present age, and in the age to come, eternal life. The first will be last, and the last first.*

- Q Why was the Christ's pronouncement regarding children revolutionary, and somewhat disquieting for His followers?
- Q Why did He touch them, and praise them?
- Q What was good about the rich dude's question? And bad about his question?
- Q Why did the Christ lie about His goodness?
- Q Did the wealthy young man ever follow Jesus later?
- Q What was Jesus answer to the elephant in the room—"Just who then can be saved?" What is theologically dumb about this question? What is theologically smart about this question?
- Q What are the consequences of leaving it all behind for Yeshua the Messiah and the gospel?
- Q Why are the first last, and the last first in the theology of Jesus the Christ?

Mark 10:32-45 *Flies in the Ointment*. On their way to Jerusalem, Jesus led the disciples, who were astonished, and the remaining followers who were afraid. Again, He took the 12 aside—explaining what was going to happen. *The Son of Man will be betrayed to the head pastors and professors of theology. They will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the heathens. The heathens will in turn mock, spit, and flog Him, then kill Him. Three days later He will rise.*

Then James & John saw their chance—Teacher, we want You to do what we want you to do, whatever we ask. *What do you want Me to do for you?*, Jesus asked (as if He didn't know). Let us be the number 1 & 2 in your kingdom, your glory.

You don't know what you've asked. Can you take on what I am taking on? Can you be immersed with the immersion that I am to be immersed with? Stupidly, they responding, "Yes we can."

The remaining ten heard and were indignant—Jesus called them together and reminded them of previous didactics—

Others are ruled by the heathen, and their high officials are in charge. But not you—instead... Whoever wants to become great among you, must be your servant. And, whoever wants to be first, must be slave of all. Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for many.

Q How did Yeshua know He would be mocked, spat upon, and flogged?

Q What interference did James & John extend to the mission of Christ? How is that manifested today?

Q Why must the first be last, and the first be the slave of all? Who set the standard?

MARK 10:32-45

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³"We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

³⁹"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴²Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:46-52 *Ask, Man, Ask!* As they were leaving Jericho (on their way to Jerusalem), Jesus, the disciples and a large crowd noted a man named Bartimaeus, blind and sitting on the roadside, begging.

When he heard it was Yeshua of Nazareth, he began to shout—Yeshua, son of David—have mercy on me!

Since he was blind, and a beggar and shouting at Yeshua, lots of folk chided him, telling him to shut up. It didn't work; he shouted even more, Yeshua, son of David—have mercy on me! This time it worked—Yeshua stopped and said "Call him over here."

They called to him—Cheer up! Get on your feet! He is calling you. And so Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside, jumped to his feet and "came to Yeshua."

What do you want Me to do for you? Jesus asked. *Rabbi, I want to see. Go, your faith has healed you.* Immediately he was able to see, and he followed Jesus along the road.

- Q Why did Mark point out that this Bartimaeus was the "son of Timaeus?"
- Q Why did some of the knuckleheads rebuke Bartimaeus for calling out to the Son of David?
- Q What do we do to rebuke those who call out to the Lord Jesus the Christ? [e.g., Make fun of those who don't understand who He is.]
- Q Why did Yeshua ask Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do?
- Q Why was it Bartimaeus' faith that healed him instead of the power & will of Jesus the Christ?

MARK 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

⁵²"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.