

The Book of Mark: Jesus Fights for Marriage

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.

² *Some 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.*

⁴ *They 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.' ⁷ 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

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

Mark 10:1-12 (NIV)

If 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,² and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man,³ 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,⁴ 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 (NIV)

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

Matthew 19:9 (NIV)

What is Jesus saying here?

! The wife has equal _____ and _____.

! The issue isn't divorce, it is your _____.

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Matthew 19:8-9 (NIV)

! We Should _____ marriage at _____!