

Love and Marriage

Series: "What Jesus said in Mark"

Mark 10:1-12, Mark 7:20-23, Matthew 5:27-30, 19:10-12

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Last week: Listening

This week: God's intention, love, marriage, sex, divorce

A. Context: A Trick Question -- Is Divorce legal according to Bible?

1. Judaism divided – easy/soft (Hillel); hard/harsh (Shammai)
2. People divided
3. Jesus looked as if he would have been on the softer side
e.g., John 8 – Story of Woman caught in Adultery
Jesus has no time for those who condemn
Filled with grace
4. But Jesus here – is harsh!! Harsher than both parties. All are stunned.

B. Mark 10:5-9 Jesus' Words Make People Uncomfortable

1. Not just SOME, but ALL
 - a. All called to "life in the beginning"
All called to God's original intent
 - b. BUT None of us make it!
2. Jesus even made the woman caught in adultery squirm
 - a. Yes! He loved her, did not condemn her
 - b. But he also called her to "sin no more"
– what she did was wrong, not right! And he called it!
3. Jesus loved to comfort the afflicted -- but also
 - a. To afflict the comfortable
 - b. To make people feel uncomfortable enough, mad enough
 - i. either to get rid of him
 - ii. or to allow him into our lives –
 1. to seek his help/healing (like a physician)
 2. in the touchiest, most personal, intimate places of life

C. Jesus' Probing into the Personal/the Uncomfortable Goes very much against the spirit of our age.

1. Often what that might offend or "hurt" is sometimes

- a. not given a hearing;
 - b. or called 'hate speech'
 - c. or is a cause for uninviting a speaker on campus
2. Reactions have come from
 - a. President Obama (Howard University)
 - b. The Atlantic (9/15): "The Coddling of the American Mind" -- *In the name of emotional well-being, college students are increasingly demanding protection from words and ideas they don't like. Here's why that's disastrous for education—and mental health.*

D. Jesus understands marriage, divorce and sexual intimacy

not in the context of coddling but in the context of calling
not in the context of rights but in the context of responsibility
not in the context of feelings but in the context of God's original intent

1. *The world views personal morality*
 - a. politically in terms of Rights
-- often this has to be the case to ensure justice
-- think Old Testament and migrants (Num.15:29, Lev.24:22)
 - b. individually in terms of Feelings
-- what feels right and natural is given status as BEING right!
2. *Jesus views sexual morality*
 - a. As resisting our feelings (Matthew 5:27-29),
when they do not align with God's original intention
(Mark 10:6)
 - b. As not focusing on/condemning others (John 8)
but pursuing our calling (Matthew 19:10-12)
-- aiming high, even when it's hard
-- whether in singleness or marriage

E. Following Jesus

1. Allow him in to the deepest most personal places in life even when it hurts -- like a physician, if Jesus' words hurt, he speaks them in love, only to heal.
2. Remember -- It's generally not our status that brings happiness
But the way we think – do we think as Jesus teaches us?
3. Do not Go It Alone!
Find someone else to share your struggles.