

A Study of Mark – Lesson 29

Mark 10:1-16 Divorce and Adultery

10¹ 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.”

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The Little Children and Jesus

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus / for him to place his hands on them, / but the disciples rebuked them. / ¹⁴ When 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. / ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, / anyone / who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child / will never enter it.” / ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, / placed his hands on them / and blessed them.

Vocabulary

1. **Custom:** His habit or routine.
2. **Flesh:** Skin. One family.
3. **Adultery:** Disloyalty, extramarital sex.
4. **Indignant:** Angry at the unfairness.
5. **Hinder:** Get in the way of; obstruct, delay.

Questions

1. Who are the Pharisees?
2. Why do they *test* Jesus? What are the Pharisees looking for?
3. Jesus answers the Pharisee’s question with a question. Why?
4. King Herod had divorced his wife and married another. Do you think the Pharisees wanted Jesus to speak words that might get him arrested?
5. What is heresy?
6. What is the difference between the ideal and reality?

Notes

1. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 tells the Mosaic law of the Old Testament.
2. Jesus is making his way south toward Jerusalem. He again had crowds following him and his disciples.
3. King Herod had divorced his wife and married another. John the Baptist spoke out against this and was arrested. He was later beheaded. At this time in Jewish life and history, divorce was a burning subject for it was all too common and many women hesitated to marry because the marriage was so insecure. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to speak words that might get him arrested.
4. Heresy is an unorthodox religious opinion. For the Pharisees, Jesus was a heretic. These “religious” people were intent on getting Jesus to trap himself.

Groups you need to understand

Sadducees

Cooperated with Rome; High Priest was a Sadducee.

Pharisees

A member of an ancient Jewish religious group who followed the Oral Law in addition to the Torah and attempted to live in a constant state of purity

Somebody who is self-righteous or hypocritical, especially with regard to adherence to rules and formalities (disapproving)

Romans

The Romans conquered the Middle East and most of the Mediterranean world. Rome was the most celebrated city in the world at the time of Christ. When the New Testament was written, Rome was enriched and adorned with the spoils of the world,

and contained a population estimated at 1,200,000, of which half were slaves, and included representatives of nearly every nation then known. It was distinguished for its wealth, luxury and profligacy. The Roman empire, of which it was the capital, had then reached its greatest prosperity. Caesar was the ruler or dictator.

Herodians and King Herod

Puppet rulers of Judea.

Herod Antipas

Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea



Coin of Herod Antipas

Reign	4 BC – AD 39
Born	Before 20 BC
Died	After AD 39
Place of death	Gaul
Predecessor	Herod the Great
Successor	Agrippa I
Wives	Daughter of Aretas IV of Nabatea Herodias
Dynasty	Herodian Dynasty
Father	Herod the Great
Mother	Malthace