

THE GOSPEL OF  
**MARK**®  
*servant* **KING**

## CHAPTER 10, PART 1

*Verses 1-31*

### JUDEA

Jesus continues to be on the move. After His teaching in Capernaum, Jesus and the disciples leave Galilee and move on to Judea to the east side of the Jordan River. Jesus continues to gain in popularity, attracting large crowds who hang on every word He teaches. People in these huge crowds would bring their loved ones to Jesus for healing or just a touch from Him. The Pharisees and other religious leaders continued to be part of the crowds as well but for different reasons. They were always looking, watching and waiting for ways to try to trap Jesus in His words and actions. In this lesson, we will see their attempt to trap Jesus with a controversial subject. Later, we will see how a young man was possessed by his own riches.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible. Mark 10:27*

**Read through Mark 10:1-31.** Ask yourself whose kingdom you pursue? Is it the Kingdom of God with eternal rewards or is it a worldly kingdom filled with temporary riches and momentary pleasures that are fading and do not last?

#### MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE (Mark 10:1-12; Matthew 19:1-10)

1. Jesus and the disciples left Galilee and headed toward Judea west of the Jordan River. As they traveled, who again followed and gathered to Him? As was His custom, what did Jesus do (vv.1-2)? What does Matthew 19:1 add?

2. What did the Pharisees ask Jesus (v.2)?
  - a. What does Matthew add to their question (Matt. 19:3)?
  - b. What was their motive in asking the question? (See Mark 3:6; 8:11; 12:13.)

“The area that Jesus was teaching at this time was ruled by Herod Antipas, which may explain why the Pharisees tried to trap Him with a question about divorce. After all, John the Baptist had been slain because he preached against Herod’s adulterous marriage (Mark 6:14-29).” *Warren Wiersbe*

3. How did Jesus answer their question (v.3)?
  - a. What then was their response to Jesus (v.4)?
  - b. Notice the wording in verses 3 and 4; who was permitted to divorce whom?
4. Write the conditions that Moses allowed for divorce. See Deuteronomy 24:1-4.
  - a. What did Jesus say concerning why Moses wrote this command (v.5)? (Also see Matt. 19:8.)
  - b. Using a Bible dictionary or study Bible, define “hardness of heart.”

5. Jesus “turns the discussion from a discussion of divorce to a discussion of marriage” (J. Vernon McGee), and goes back to the very beginning of creation to the very first marriage. Read Genesis 1:26-27; 2:21-25 along with Mark 10:6-9 and Matthew 19:4-6 to answer the questions below.

- a. Who established marriage?
- b. Who has the right to make the rules?
- c. Marriage is between a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_
- d. For how long? \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 10:9; see also Romans 7:1-3.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
“Hardness of heart refers to closing one’s mind to God’s truths. Moses allowed divorce as a concession to spiritual intractability.”

6. In the parallel passage in Matthew, Jesus gives the one exception for permissible divorce. Mark omits this exception, possibly because he writes to the Roman Christians; whereas, Matthew writes to the Jewish Christians. What one exception for divorce does Jesus give (Matthew 5:32; 19:9)?

7. Later, Jesus explained to the disciples the seriousness of divorce. What did He say they commit when they divorce and remarry for other reasons (vv.11-12)?

8. Jesus is the same today as He was when He walked this earth. Marriage is very serious to Him. What do the following Scriptures teach us about marriage, separation and divorce?

- a. Exodus 20:14
- b. Malachi 2:13-16
- c. 1 Corinthians 7:10-16
- d. Ephesians 5:21-33

## **PERSONAL**

Do you find yourself in a difficult marriage today? Is your heart hard? How do these scriptures help you to persevere even in the difficult relationship? If you have experienced the pain of divorce in the past how can you know that God is always willing to restore the repentant heart? See 1 John 1:7-9.

“What Jesus is saying here takes them back to God’s ideal at the creation before sin entered the world. Divorce was not in His plan and program at that time ... It may likewise be said that murder was not in His plan, but murderers have been forgiven. Divorce is a sin, but divorced people can be forgiven ... People who are saved after securing a divorce ought not to bear the stigma any more than any other sinner who has been saved. We are all sinners saved by grace.” *J. Vernon McGee*

## **CHILDREN BROUGHT TO JESUS (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)**

9. Why did people bring their young children to Jesus? What were they hoping these little ones would receive from Jesus? What was the reaction of the disciples (v.13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why would the disciples rebuke these parents and try to keep these children from Jesus (v.13)?
  - a. What other instances of hardness of heart toward people do you see in the disciples? (See Mark 6:36; Matthew 15:23.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What teaching from Jesus had the disciples forgotten (Mark 9:36-37)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What was Jesus’s reaction to the disciples’ treatment of these children? What were His words of rebuke and exhortation to the disciples (vv.14-15)? (Also see Luke 18:16-17.)

12. What are some ways we receive the kingdom as a little child (v.15)? Also, see below.
- a. John 3:3, 6:28-29
  - b. Romans 5:18
  - c. Ephesians 2:8-9
  - d. Other
13. What did Jesus do with all these children brought to Him (v.16)? Can you imagine what a moment that would be like for these children?
14. As adults, we enter the Kingdom of God with childlike faith. We must look to Jesus as a child looks to a parent. How does 1 Peter 2:1-3 describe our dependency on Jesus?

### **PERSONAL**

Have you become like a child and entered into the Kingdom of God? Do you desire the pure Word of God so that you may grow in His grace? If not, you can pray right now and ask for Jesus to forgive you of all of your sins and receive the gift of new life and become His child. If you have come to Jesus share this wonderful news with someone today.

## RICH YOUNG RULER

15. Jesus was back on the road again towards Jerusalem; as He walked, someone came running to Him (v.17). (Also see Matt. 19:16.)

- a. What did Jesus do?
- b. What title does he give Jesus?
- c. What question does he come to Jesus with?
- d. What additional information about this man's title do we see in Luke 18:18?

### DID YOU KNOW?

This is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus was *greatly displeased*. The phrase indicates strong anger. Jesus allowed the children to come to Him, but the real point related to "of such." This saying pertains to the kind of people to whom God's kingdom belongs.

This young man had a very superficial view of spiritual things. He certainly had a shallow view of salvation, for he thought he could do something to earn or merit eternal life. This was a common belief in that day among the Jews, (6:28), and it is very common today. Most unsaved people think that God will one day add up their good works and their bad works, and if their good works exceed their bad works, they will get to heaven. *Warren Wiersbe*

16. Often, Jesus asks questions to make people think (vv.18-19). (Also see Matt. 19:18-19; Luke 18:20.)

- a. In answer to this man's question, what did Jesus ask this man in His response?
- b. As Jesus spoke, what was He saying about Himself?
- c. What part of the law does Jesus state in verse 19? What relationship does it represent?
- d. What is one purpose of the law? (See Galatians 3:24.)

Jesus pointed this man to the law of Moses: He wanted him to see himself as a sinner bowed before the holy God. We cannot be saved by keeping the law. (Galatians 2:16-21; Ephesians 2:8-10) ...The law is a mirror that shows us how dirty we are, but the mirror cannot wash us. *Warren Wiersbe*

17. What caused this young man to be so confident and yet so deceived in himself (v.20)? (Also see Luke 18:21; Philippians 3:6.)

a. What else did he ask Jesus in Matthew 19:20?

b. Before Jesus zeroed in on this young man's lack, what does Mark add about Jesus actions towards this man (v.21a)?

18. Jesus gets to the heart of this man; the "one thing he lacked," and his relationship to God.

a. What was the invitation Jesus gave (v.21b)?

b. How did he respond (v.22)? (Also see Matt. 19:22; Luke 18:23.)

c. Jesus had put His finger on this man's real god. Which commandments did this young man break? See Exodus 20:1-4; Matthew 22:37-40.

d. What was this man's real god?

### **WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

19. What important truth did Jesus teach His disciples about riches? What point was Jesus making about a camel going through the eye of needle (vv.23-24)? (Cross reference: Matthew 19:23; Luke 18:24; Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Jesus used a common proverb for impossibility. The camel was the largest animal in the Levant.

20. How did the disciples respond to what Jesus was teaching? What did they say among themselves (v.26)? (Also see Luke 18:26; Matthew 10:25.)

21. How did Jesus reassure His disciples (v.27)? (Also see Matt. 19:26; Luke 18:27.)

### **PERSONAL**

How does this rich man's story speak to you today? Where is your heart? Who or what is your god? Jesus calls us to love Him with all our heart, all our soul and with all our mind. Matthew 22:37 Does this describe you? "For where your heart is that is your treasure" (Matthew 6:21).

### **JESUS'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL REWARD**

22. As Peter spoke up, what did he claim? In Jesus's response to Peter's claim, what three promises did He give to His disciples (vv.28-31)? (Also see Luke 18:28-30.)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Jesus explained that in the world to come, the values of this world will be reversed. Those who seek status and importance here will have none in heaven. Those who are humble here will be great in heaven. Those who have humbly served others are most qualified in heaven.

### **PERSONAL**

Explain what Jesus's words "But many who are first will be last, and the last first" means to you. What reward are you seeking?

### **DWELL ON THIS**

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12). It is worth ALL of this to follow Jesus.



# NOTES

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