*23* STUDY OF MARK 2020

God’s Plan for Marriage

Mark 10:1-12

“Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (9)

1. Where did Jesus go and what was he doing (1)? What family related topic did the Pharisees use to test Jesus and why (2; 6:17-18[[1]](#footnote-1); 3:6[[2]](#footnote-2))? Surprisingly, what did Moses permit the Israelites to do back in the day? (3-4)
2. According to Jesus, what was the root cause that led Moses to make this law? (5) What are some of the things that causes someone to become spiritually hard-hearted? How do hard-hearted people treat the ways of God (Including God’s plan for marriage?) In what sense did Moses’ law attempt to prevent hard-hearted people from going against God’s plan of marriage? (Dt 24:1-4; refer to explanation in footnote 3[[3]](#footnote-3))?
3. What was God’s plan for marriage at the beginning of creation (6-8)? What does the fact that God “*made them male and female*” reveal about God’s plan for marriage? In what sense must “*a man leave his father and mother*” before forming a Godly marriage? What does it mean to “*be united to his wife*”? What does “*become one flesh*” and “*no longer two, but one flesh*” reveal about what happens to a man and woman when God joins them in marriage?
4. Based on the above, why should no one separate (divorce) what God has joined together in marriage? (9) What did Jesus teach his disciples about people’s motives for divorce (10-12)? How are these motives connected to hardened hearts? Based on this passage, what hope can you have for a happy marriage one day?

1. **Mark 6:17-18** “For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Mark 3:6** “Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Note**: In a male dominated society, Moses put a measure in place to prevent hard-hearted men from kicking their wives out of their house for silly things. Men had to go through the trouble of getting a divorce certificate first. This was to protect the sanctity of marriage. Also, it was to protect women and ensure that they do not end up on the street desolate and abandoned. Moreover, it also protected the woman that once there was a divorce that if she married again the first husband could not claim her back and marry her again. In this way the woman was protected from accusations of adultery. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)