

Dig Deeper into Mark 10:1-12 for personal study and Life Groups...



"LET NO-ONE SEPARATE"

v1 THE CONTEXT IS THE CROSS 

v2-5 1) THE PHARISEES:
✗ MARRIAGE IS DISPOSABLE

v6-12 2) THE SERVANT KING:
✓ MARRIAGE IS PERMANENT

→ 1 Care!
→ 2 Commitment!
→ 3 Cling to the cross!

 SINGLE
 MARRIED
 DIVORCED

Today's study enables us to continue to talk about a passage focusing on Jesus' attitude to divorce. However, before we start we need to acknowledge there will be people in every life group whose lives have been impacted by divorce (either in their own lives or the lives of loved ones) and their experiences are likely to be the most painful of their lives (see the testimonies below). The last thing that we want to do is add unnecessary guilt or shame through insensitivity. We also want to maintain Jesus' high teaching on marriage. It's possible for different people to hear *challenge* when they should be hearing *compassion*, and vice versa. So I suggest we address the issue a) **prayerfully**- asking God for help to hear his word and love one another, and having this conversation "before him". b) **carefully**- with an issue this personal we want to reassure people of no condemnation, forgiveness, acknowledgement of pain. c) **respectfully**- people are entitled to privacy in what they share or don't share. Do come back to a leader/Charlie if you want to talk more about any issues.

Here are some questions to talk through together...

1. Revisit the foundational passages that Jesus quotes here (Gen 1:27 and 2:24). What do they teach about marriage and sexuality, and how does Jesus' additional comment in v9 help us to understand the costly discipleship that he is calling his followers to?
2. Where is the good news in this passage?
3. How should this passage (and others you can think of) impact someone who is facing one of the following situations (and how can we as a church care for those in these places)...
 - a. struggling with their singleness
 - b. same sex attracted
 - c. thinking about marriage
 - d. struggling with conflict and difficulty in their marriage
 - e. looking back on a divorce where they regret not doing more
 - f. looking back on a divorce where they were treated appallingly
4. Take some time to pray together asking for God's help to "deny self, take up the cross and follow Jesus" Mark 8:34.

Resources on some issues related to Marriage & Divorce...

- Each of us who is not divorced should read one of these testimonies in order to come to this topic with greater compassion. [Wendy](#) [Laura](#) [Craig](#) [Vaneetha](#) [4 BBC stories](#) .
- Christopher Ash on marriage [here](#).
- The [ESV Study Bible](#) has an excellent article on this on p2545-7.