

BIBLE READING DAY 30, MONDAY: MARCH 28

Jesus Questioned About Divorce

Matthew 19:3–15; Mark 10:2-16; Luke 18:15-17

Some Pharisees came to Jesus to test him. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”

“Have you not read,” answered Jesus, “that he who made them in the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? Thus, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

“Then why did Moses command us to give a wife a certificate of divorce and dismiss her?” they replied.

“Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives,” said Jesus, “but from the beginning it was not so. And I tell you, whoever divorces his wife for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Then the disciples said to Jesus, “If that is a man’s situation with respect to a wife, it is best not to marry.”

“Not everyone can accept this teaching,” replied Jesus, “but only those to whom it has been granted. For while some are incapable of marriage from birth, and some are made incapable by men, there are some who have chosen to forego marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this, let him accept it.”

Some were bringing little children to Jesus, that he might lay his hands on them. But the disciples were forbidding them, and when Jesus noticed this, he was indignant and said, “Let the little children come to me. Do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you truly, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it.”

Then he took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

The Cost of Discipleship, Matthew 19:16-30, 20:1-19; Mark 10:17-34; Luke 18:18–34

A certain councilman came running and kneeled and asked Jesus, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” replied Jesus. “No one is truly good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery; do not kill; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and mother.’”

“All these have I observed from my youth,” he replied.

When Jesus heard this, he loved him and said, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, that you may have treasure in heaven, and come follow me.”

When the man heard this, he was sad, for he was very rich and had great possessions. Then Jesus, looking as he walked away, said to those around him, “How difficult it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard these words were astonished and exclaimed, “Who, then, can be saved?”

“Things impossible for men are possible for God,” Jesus said.

Then said Peter, "Lo, we have left everything we had and followed you."

"I tell you truly," said Jesus, "you who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. There is no one who has left house or wife, brothers or sisters, parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive far more in this present time, and in the world to come, eternal life. But many who are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."

"For the kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "is like a landowner who went out at daybreak to hire laborers for his vineyard. And having agreed with them on a wage of one denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about nine o'clock and saw other laborers standing idle in the marketplace and said to them, 'You go to the vineyard too, and I will pay you whatever is right.' And so they went. And he went out again about noon and about three o'clock and hired others. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they replied. 'You go to the vineyard too,' he said.

"And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones and proceeding to the first ones.' And when those hired about five o'clock came, they each received a denarius. And when those came who were hired first, they thought they would receive more; but they, too, each received a denarius. And when they had received their pay, they began to complain against the landowner, saying, 'These last have worked only one hour, and you have paid them the same as us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

"But the landowner replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am not doing you any injustice. Did you not agree with me on a wage of one denarius? Take your pay and go. I choose to give this last person the same amount I am giving you. Is it not lawful for me to do whatever I please with what belongs to me? Why be offended because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first last; for many be called, but few chosen."

Then Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. And after they have scourged him, they will kill him; but on the third day, he will rise again." But they did not understand any of these things. They were perplexed by his words and did not know what he meant.

When the days were drawing near that he should be received up, Jesus steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers before him, who went into a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him. But the Samaritans refused to receive him, because he was on his way to Jerusalem. And when the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?"

Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.

"If Christ is not all to you, He is nothing to you. He will never go into partnership as a part Savior of men.

If He be something He must be everything, and if He be not everything, He is nothing to you."

Charles H. Spurgeon

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 st Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 st Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	2 nd Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 30 (MONDAY MARCH 28)

On Marriage, Children, Family, and ultimately, Our Own Selves

Based on Matthew 19:3–30; Mark 10:2-34; Luke 18:15-34

“*What God has joined together, let no man separate.*” Marriage has been the topic of so many books, conferences, and even jokes. What they have in common is that they can share the idea that marriage is hard. Why is that? Because you have two sinners that choose to pledge their life to each other and experience each other’s highs and lows. They see how patient one spouse is and how impatient the other is. They see how gentle one spouse and how rough the other is.

Through all these things, marriage is a covenant that we must remain faithful in, against the evils of adultery, abuse, and abandonment. These are the causes Jesus states that grant a spouse “Biblical grounds” to separate or even terminate the marriage. Fast forward from the days of Jesus to 2022 and you see divorce at an extremely alarming rate and for numerous other Biblical reasons cited to include any number of “irreconcilable differences”.

God has joined us together with our spouses and wants us to pour our lives into each other to display His love to one another, as well as His mercy, His grace, and His own hatred of sin. Jesus said adultery was an “allowance” for a marriage to be dissolved but even then, it is not mandated. We must hate the things which lead to divorce and fight for things which strengthen marriages with all the strength that the Holy Spirit grants to us.

Mark 10:13-16: C. S. Lewis once stated “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.” God has granted us stewardship over these little souls to watch and care for. The best way we can fulfill this duty is by bringing them to the feet of Jesus.

We believe the works Jesus has done. We believe Jesus died to rid us of sin. We believe His resurrection will lead to the extinction of death for those who trust in Him. We believe it is by faith that we are saved and promised life everlasting. How can we hold these things back from anyone, let alone our own children?

Luke 18:18-34: Do you believe what you have read and heard about Jesus? Do you believe a commitment to Him means sacrificing on your part? Are comforts in this world far better than what we would behold in Heaven?

Look at Matthew 13:44. Pursuing Jesus should be like finding a treasure of great value and giving away all we own so that we can possess it. What can we give up so that we may better pursue Jesus?

Time. What is a better way for you to spend your days growing your relationship with Christ?

Talent. What is better for you to use your abilities for the glory of the Kingdom of God?

Treasure. What is a better for you to allow God to use His finances as a tool of advancing His Kingdom?

Lord, marriage is the most important relationship many of us will have on Earth. Teach us to guard it and fight for it relentlessly. Second, these Young souls in our homes and at the church have been placed by You to be in our care. Equip us to disciple them and teach them the goodness of Your Son, Christ Jesus. Finally, Heaven is far better than any comfort, coin, or clock on Earth. Let us not hold fast to things that perish over those which are pure and permanent to You. May we pursue You in all things. Amen.

--By Robert “Pastor Bud” Olmstead

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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