



Let the Cross Shape our Marriages

Mark 10:1-12

Why your marriage is worth fighting for today:

- Jesus doesn't want us to die of a long slow heart attack.
- Jesus doesn't want us to experience the pain of an amputation.
- Jesus doesn't want us to go toe to toe against God.
- Jesus wants God's very best for you.

GETTING STARTED: What do you enjoy the most about weddings? The least?

DIGGING DEEPER: How were the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus? In view of the political situation (Mark 6:17-19), how were Jesus' words in verses 11-12 dangerous? How did the Pharisees view marriage and divorce (Deut 24:1; Matt 19)? How does Jesus turn the tables and put them to the test by emphasizing God's intent for marriage? Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The Pharisees were more concerned for the grounds for divorce; Jesus was more concerned about the principles of marriage. In view of this, do you think the main application of this passage and of Matt 19:1-10 is about "why stay married" or "when divorce is okay"? Make a list of the pitfalls of divorce you see in this passage (see also Mal 2:14-16) How would you respond to someone who says, "Divorce should absolutely never happen"? (Matt 19:8-9; 1Cor 7:7, 10-15) Make a list of the payoffs from fighting for your marriage in this passage (see also Gen 2:22-25; 1Cor 7:3, 12-14; Eph 5:22-33)

LIVING IT OUT: In what ways have you seen that not dealing with pain and unforgiveness in marriage or other relationships create hardness of heart? How have you seen (for you or someone you know) that the pain of divorce is like an amputation? Knowing this, is there someone you can show Jesus' grace and compassion to this week? How will you do that? How have you seen marriage, in the good times and tough times, to be God's best? In what ways can believers hold to the teaching of God's word on marriage and show compassion for those who have divorced or committed adultery? Pick one aspect of this passage that motivates you to fight for your marriage. What is one thing you can do this week to strengthen your marriage? What resources could you use to help you do that (pray, talk to a friend or counselor, go to our marital equipping class, read a book on marriage with your spouse, etc.)?



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