

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

You crown us with glory & honor. (v5)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful & steadfast, & teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 10:2-16

²Some Pharisees came, & to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal & to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male & female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife & marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband & marries another, she commits adultery.” ¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; & the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant & said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, & blessed them.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

This is delicate topic & we're not here to judge one another or hurt each other's feelings. Paying careful attention to the words on the page will help organize our thinking. Only after understanding the texts as they are can we take a next step. Pastor is happy to talk further with you about a specific in your life.

1. Read the following passages carefully then decide what is being prevented or disallowed: all divorce? Divorce for specific reasons? Divorce for any reason (“no fault”)? All remarriage? Remarriage while ex-spouse is living? Remarriage to the ex-spouse? Something not listed? Cite evidence in the text. *See Genesis 1:27, 2:24, 5:2; Leviticus 18:1-30, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Jeremiah 3:1; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:1-9; Acts 15:28-29; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 6:12-7:16, 25-40; Ephesians 5:21-33. The word “pornea” (Matthew 5:31, 19:9; Acts 15:29; 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2; root of pornography) includes all kinds of sexual immoralities & infidelity, not solely adulterous intercourse; use your Bible’s study notes*
2. Pay close attention to Jesus’ line of reasoning: where does marriage come from? Where does regulation of divorce (& marriage) come from? Which one carries forward into the New Covenant? Also review these passages, too: *Matthew 12:30-31; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 7:36-50, 12:8-10; John 8:1-11, 20:21-23*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Think of how the smallest child is entirely dependent on its parents for every single thing. How can you approach faith in God this way- total dependence for even the things you take for granted: yourself, modern utilities, health/healthcare, groceries, & more? *See Acts 17:24-25, 28*
4. “To leave & cleave” (*cf. v7*) is fundamental part of marriage. Think back on your marriage (or significant romantic relationships) when have you failed to leave your parents behind (emotionally, politically, socially, financially, personally, etc.) & cling whole-heartedly & with both hands to your spouse, giving them your full loyalty? Think about your last marital disagreement: where was your loyalty lacking? How can you make amends? How can you promptly admit when you are wrong in the future?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How does getting real, getting honest, being authentic about our own relationship challenges & failures, as well as what’s required before success could happen, make us more relatable & useful to our neighbors?
6. Our culture separates children, marriage &, sex into three different realms. Jesus clearly holds them together in this passage. How can your congregation support families when one or more of the three is out of whack?

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19th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Ins & Outs of Stewardship

10.03.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Trust

Stewardship operates on trust, NOT calculation & cost-benefit analysis.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of
God as a little child will never enter it. (v15)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

If we love one another, God lives in us
& God's love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:12)

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