

# Mark



## Lesson 12-Marriage and Divorce, Riches, and True Greatness

Focus: Mark 10:1-52

### 1. Jesus teaches us about God's true standard and plan regarding Marriage (and Divorce) (v.1-12)

- a. (v.1-4) "And He arose from there..." (That is, the house in Capernaum where He had been teaching—see Mark 9:33). The Pharisees came to Jesus with a question designed to test His standards and see His teaching regarding the Law's requirements. They asked him about Divorce, and Jesus turned their attention back to what Moses said. In answer, they made reference to an allowance for divorce in some cases which was given in the laws written out by Moses (Deuteronomy 24:1-4).
- b. (v.5-9) Jesus responded back to this by raising the bar back to God's pure and true standard from the very beginning.—This is what God's calls us to live by!! **Men have cheapened the sacred vows of marriage and the necessity of faithfulness to their spouse.** Men have not rightly honored the sanctity of the marriage vows. **Jesus calls us back to God's Holy standard and purpose for marriage—marriage is for life!!** It's not as easily breakable as some seem to think it to be! **The two are to be "one flesh"—they are to "cling" together and not be separated.** Jesus points out that no man has a right to separate what God has joined together.
- c. (v.10-12) When Christ's disciples asked Him about the details of this later, he expounded on the teaching [elaborated; said more, made more clear]. **If one divorces and then re-marries for an unbiblical reason, then they are actually committing adultery on their husband or wife—which is a horrible sin forbidden by God in the Ten Commandments.** It is actually possible we see for a person to be "divorced" by the laws of the state, but still married to their spouse in the eyes of God. (The governments of men might give people a piece of paper saying, "Divorced," but God's papers still say "Married for life"). **If we choose to marry a divorced person [who is divorced unbiblically] then we are committing adultery** (See Matthew 5:31,21; 19:9). If your spouse commits the sin of "sexual immorality" or "adultery" against you, **this is the only reason in which God allows for a divorce** [having a "bad attitude" or other marriage problems are **not** a reason for divorce; certainly those can be serious problems, and they need to be worked out—you may even need to get some space for a time; but **divorce is not the answer.**]
- d. **If someone divorces [or "separates"] for an unbiblical reason, then the Bible tells us they should "remain unmarried" or else be "reconciled" to their spouse** (1 Corinthians 7:10,11,39). **We must learn how to love—even "our enemies"** (Matthew 5:43-48).

### 2. Jesus taught us to love, care for, and be as the little children (v.13-16) We should learn to be trusting in our Heavenly Father, even as little children also trust in their earthly parents; to have implicit trust; to follow God's voice in however He leads us. **Jesus was not too busy to take time for ministering to the children.** He said this is how the kingdom of heaven works. God loves and cares for the little children and so should we. **Jesus ministered to the adults and even the children** by showing them His love, time, and consideration for them. Then **he prayed for them** ["blessed them"]. **We should remember to show the same love of God to the children** (and to take the time for being with them—even though our schedule may be busy!—just like Jesus did). "Allow them to come" to you! (v.14).

### 3. The rich young ruler came to see Jesus (v.17-22, 23-27)

- a. (v.17-22) This man approached Jesus with a complement. "Good master." Jesus shot down these words. Only God is good, Jesus replied (v.18). **We must be very careful about accepting some kind of praise from men. Praise belongs to God alone for His goodness. We are not worthy.** Where do talents, skills, and abilities come from? They come from God!! (1 Corinthians 4:7). So, who should get all the glory? **God.** Not men. (not us). **Jesus then addressed the man's question by turning it back to him. "You know the commandments..."** (v.19). Jesus then quotes from the last six (the commandments dealing with man's relationship to man). The man

replied and Jesus loved this man's answer. **Then He called him to make a true sacrifice for the cross of Jesus—to surrender all, help the poor, and follow Jesus Christ fully!** The man turned away sorrowful. **He had an idol as it turned out—money!** Money was greater to this man than was the service of God, and the word of Jesus Christ. **He was breaking one of the first four commandments** (the ones that deal with man's relationship to God). His life was terribly lacking here, and he was unwilling to surrender to God. **Are you willing to surrender to God?** What is standing between you and the cross of Jesus? What is standing between you and Him? Is there anything that is keeping you from following Jesus all the way? Perhaps a job, perhaps riches, perhaps unbelieving family. Do you have any idols standing between you and Jesus? Please let them go. Don't let anything keep you from Jesus. Don't let anything or anyone turn you away sorrowful from Jesus. Come to Him, and He will give you true rest and peace (Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:27; 16:33).

- b. (v.23-27) Some people think that they have it all in this life. They have put their trust into things that are uncertain. **Those who put their trust in riches and the other uncertain things of this life cannot possibly enter into the kingdom of God. We must learn to put our trust in God, and to follow Him at His word—trusting that HE will take care of us, as He has promised** (ref. Matthew 6:24-33). The Bible says **"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the sons of man; in whom there is no help" (Psalm 146:3). Do not trust in "uncertain riches" (1 Timothy 6:17), but rather, put your trust in God.**
4. **Peter chimed in to hear about His reward and Jesus gave a lesson (v.28-31)** Sometimes we may have to leave a house, or family relations, or properties for Jesus' sake and for the gospel. **But, Jesus promises heavenly riches, eternal riches, and true family in the Kingdom of God that will last forever**—this family will be the closest family we can have. **We will have the increased blessings** and peace of God "now in this time" (v.30; as the privileges of Christ's Kingdom), "...with persecutions," and "in the world to come—eternal life!" (the greatest of all treasures). **So let us be sure of the heavenly treasure and follow Christ.**
5. **Jesus teaches about His crucifixion and about "true greatness" (v.32-45)** Christ presented in very clear terms what would happen to Him (as they were walking up towards Jerusalem), but it appears they did not understand or comment much on these words. James and John then asked a favor of Jesus—they wanted to have a high position in His kingdom of glory. Still, they were thinking that Jesus would set up a powerful earthly kingdom at this time, and they wanted to be a big part of it. Jesus took this opportunity, not to just address their misconception about the kingdom, but to address the issue of their wrong thinking in terms of what is true greatness. **The "cup" that Jesus would drink** and the "baptism" that He would have (v.39) was just described by him in (v.32-34). The disciples would also face a painful death for their faith in Jesus and their testimony for him—they all sealed their testimony in blood (except for John). Jesus explained that high positions were just given to anyone by Him, but by whom God the Father himself would appoint. **Jesus then explained true greatness. True greatness is learning how to be a humble servant to those around us. God will raise up these humble minded servants to be His appointed leaders.** A position of authority is to be a position of humble minded, self-sacrificing service of love. This is the spirit of Jesus Christ—the humble one—who gave even His life for us. **O that we may learn of Him to have such "true" greatness!!** –To be a humble servant of all like Him. (ever doing good for others; at no demand for our own selves).
6. **Blind Bartimaeus was healed by Jesus (v.46-52)** Jesus crossed this man's path on His way to Jericho. The man, knowing something of Jesus, cried out for Jesus to "have mercy" on him and to help him. **The crowd tried to stop him as if he was a worthless beggar.** As if he was a pest and a nuisance to society. And as if there was no hope for him in Jesus. **But, the man cried all the louder! This is how we must approach Jesus!** Do not let other people discourage you from following Jesus at all. Don't listen to them. You cry out to Jesus all the more!!! Don't lose or give up hope because some others are trying to discourage you. **Jesus heard the man** and He called out to him, inviting him to come. The man cast off his rags (which he'd had as a beggar) and he came to Jesus. So let us cast off our rags of sin by repentance in coming to Jesus. Let Jesus cleanse us and heal us. Jesus asked, "What will you..." He always gives us the freedom to choose. The man asked for sight. Jesus restored the sight—for the sake of this man's faith and trust in Jesus. **Persistent faith and trust in God is greatly rewarded by Jesus Christ. Those who press on in their petitions of requesting the blessing, help, or favor from God are the ones who find heaven's storehouses of treasure opened to them!!** The man then followed Jesus in the way. So let it be with us!!

### **Question (s) for the Heart:**

**Are you willing to surrender all to Jesus Christ and to follow Him? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you choose to not allow any people, riches, idols, or otherwise to keep you from following Jesus (all the way)? \_\_\_\_\_**