

Bible Study for Sunday Oct 6, 2024

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- Mark 10:2-16
- Hebrew 1:1-4 & 2:5-12

Some background:

By this point in Mark's Gospel, Jesus has already attracted significant crowds. Predictably, He has already attracted significant opposition, also. In this passage, some Pharisees ask Jesus a question "to test Him." It is clear that the motivation for questioning Jesus about the permissibility of divorce is not because the questioners truly want an answer, but because they want to entrap Jesus – however when Jesus answers this one, He is sure to offend somebody.

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

So...what are your thoughts on *this* text? What could Mark be trying to "give legs to" or give us a better understanding of in this passage?

It is clear that the Pharisees intent in this conversation was not to gain clarity, but to entrap Jesus as vs 2 tells us that this was a test. What would entrapping Jesus do?

How does the motivation behind a question change the discussion that follows between Jesus and the Pharisees?

Notice the contrast between Jesus arguing with adults who are focused on Biblical legalism, as opposed to Jesus taking little children in His arms and blessing them. What are we to see in that contrast?

What is the problem with Biblical legalism?

How do you feel about Biblical loopholes? Who do loopholes (usually) benefit?

In your experience, do Christians tend to hide the truth from each other in order to avoid being judged by fellow Christians?

- Or are Christians able to be open with each other about their struggles and failures, knowing that they will receive compassion, kindness and support from each other?

What if what Jesus was talking about was more than a marriage relationship? How about our other relationships? How can we (as a community) model what Jesus is getting at? What happens to our relationships (and what is our focus) when our hearts are hardened?

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

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2:5Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. 6But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? 7You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, 8subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, 9but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

Verse 2:9 reads "but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels." If we were to *see Jesus* today, what would He say to us that might have been different than what He said 2000+ yrs ago? What might He repeat?

How might this Hebrews text support what Jesus was saying in our Mark text?

How will (or might) our actions and lives change if we truly recognize and live by the fact that Jesus is Supreme over all things? What influence/impact should that have on our lives?