



## **Mark 10:1-31** **Lesson 15**

*Chapter 10 opens somewhere between the summer and autumn, before the cross. Our Lord, with His face set for Jerusalem, is still attracting large crowds of people, including those who were plotting against Him. Let's join this crowd and move with Jesus as He addresses some critical life issues.*

### **Meaningful Message: Mark 10:1-31**

1. As you begin this chapter, take a moment to settle your thoughts on verses 1-31. As you read these verses, jot down anything that speaks to you or strikes you as thought provoking.
2. Let's try to outline this section of Chapter 10. Using the following passage breaks, determine the central lesson or principle being taught:

Verses 1-12

Verses 13-16

Verses 17-22

Verses 23-31

- a. Which of these is particularly significant to you personally?

*Jesus and Marriage: Mark 10:1–12*

3. Beginning in verse 1, again we see Jesus on the move. Why do you think He did not stay in one place very long?
  - a. Think about times when you have taken a trip, vacation or business. What are you usually most concerned with? How do you respond when your trip is sidetracked or delayed for any reason? Thinking of all we have studied thus far in Mark, what is Jesus' normal response to a change of plans or interruption to His schedule?
  
4. Moving to verse 2, the Pharisees, with a motive of entrapment, ask Jesus a timeless question. What was it?
  - a. As you consider this question, how would you answer it?
  
5. Describe Jesus' response to these detractors.
  - a. What do you think His purpose is in replying to them with another question?
  - b. Why was a certificate of divorce permitted?
  - c. For whose protection was this certificate issued?
  
6. From verses 5–9, carefully fill in the blanks from Jesus response and answer the questions that follow.

*And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ he wrote you this precept. But from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the creation, God 'made them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.' 'For this reason a man shall \_\_\_\_\_ his father and mother and be \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife, and the two shall become \_\_\_\_\_'; so then they are no longer \_\_\_\_\_, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined \_\_\_\_\_, let not man separate."*

- a. According to God's view of marriage, "from the beginning," how did God create the marriage partners?

b. For what purpose?

c. What do they become?

7. It is always a mistake to isolate Scripture, especially when God has provided other pertinent passages regarding specific issues. With that in mind, using the following passages, briefly write out what you understand about marriage and divorce *from a biblical perspective*.

Genesis 2:22–25

Malachi 2:14–15

Matthew 19:1–10

Deuteronomy 24:1–4

Matthew 5:31–32

1 Corinthians 7:10–15

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*Beloved*, perhaps you are struggling over your marriage. Understand God loves you so much and knows every detail of your life. In Christ there is forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. Nothing is too hard for God to handle ~ would you give this over to Him today and pray for Him to perform a miracle in your relationship?

Maybe you find yourself in a dissolved marriage *because of divorce*. Again, remember God loves you. He has **not** forsaken you, but has a plan even in this heart-breaking time. Trust Him and wait for His instruction; He wants to lead you through this!

***Jesus' Tender Mercies: Mark 10:13–16***

8. Immediately following this confrontation with the Pharisees, we see another group of people approach Jesus. Describe the scene from verses 13–16.

9. What action merited *a rebuke* from the disciples?

a. What had Jesus taught them not so long ago about children in chapter 9, verses 36 and 37?

b. How did Jesus respond?

10. Look again at verse 16. We often find Jesus touching people. How does this comfort you today as you consider your dear Savior and your relationship to those around you?

***Jesus and Materialism: Mark 10:17–31***

*We come now to a well-known intercourse between Jesus and a young man. Read verses 17–27 to see the whole conversation and Jesus' lesson on the subject.*

11. In your own words, try to replay this event as if it happened today in our society.
- a. What can you conclude about this man from reading this passage?
12. How successful had this young man been in keeping the commandments Jesus spoke of?
- a. How did Jesus feel about this young man in verse 21?
13. What does Jesus expose about this man from their conversation?
- a. What was the 'one thing' he lacked, according to Jesus?
  - b. Why couldn't this young man accept Jesus' command?
  - c. Is this required of everyone who would follow Jesus? If not, why was it required of this man?
14. As you view your own life, is there any way you might be measuring obedience to Jesus Christ by external performance rather than internal attitudes?
- a. Why is money/possessions/riches such a distraction, and sometimes an obstacle, to entering the Kingdom of God?

15. If you received a large amount of money, how would you spend it?
- a. Would you struggle keeping a proper balance or priority?
16. Jesus used this conversation with the rich man to drive home a pivotal point to His disciples in verses 23–25. What is the lesson here?
- b. Do you think the disciples understood this truth?
17. In verses 26–31, Jesus refers to the rewards to those that follow Him. How would these words be shocking to the disciples?
18. Try to spend some time meditating on the truth of verse 27. How does this minister to you? Is there something “impossible” in your life that God can make possible? Trust Him with it today.

*“I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all.  
But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”  
Martin Luther*

*Bringing it into Focus:*

*Jesus told this man that he lacked “only one thing”. Sometimes as believers we have the idea that ‘only one’ sin is not that bad. We deceive ourselves into believing that because we are saved and faithfully serving the Lord in most areas, that holding on to one sin is OK. However, this text illustrates that even one thing can keep us from fully experiencing all that God has for us. Is there one thing in your life today that is causing a void between you and God? Is there one area that you need to fully surrender to Him? Right now ... take a moment to pray and relinquish that area you are keeping in your heart and allow the Lord to fill the space it leaves with His imperishable gifts.*