

Attitudes

Mark 10:1-16

1. Disciples of Jesus Reflect God's Faithfulness vs. 1-10

The Pharisees attempted to destroy Jesus' ministry by using scripture to affirm their desire to allow divorce to take place for selfish reasons. Jesus corrects their understanding towards Deuteronomy chapter 24 and teaches that the attitude of a disciple is one of faithfulness towards God's intentions; with everything... including marriage.

2. Disciples of Jesus Reflect God's Generous Care vs. 1-10

The disciples' actions continue to reveal that they "do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men" (Mark 8:33). Jesus displays his displeasure towards the disciples' cultural response towards little children. He teaches the disciples:

- 1) To have an attitude of generous care toward the powerless.
- 2) To come to God, empty handed, so God can fill them. Like a little child who has absolutely nothing to bring to God, but through God's grace receives what the child needs.

How do we approach conflict, marriage, children, relationships, work, money, pleasure... etc.? Do we try to use scripture to affirm the attitude we have, the desires we have chosen to place as number one priority, or are we faithful disciples of Jesus who do not look for loopholes? A disciple of Jesus is one of faithfulness towards God's intentions; with everything... including marriage.

When the good thing becomes an ultimate thing it becomes the wrong thing.

Questions:

- How should a Christian's understanding of marriage differ from that of the popular image?
- How can a strong Christian marriage be an effective witness to unbelievers?
- Which attitudes and beliefs that you hold are causing you to make poor choices or experience pain? What will you do to get those attitudes and beliefs in line with God's truth?
- Consider the desires, dreams, and goals that you are currently pursuing. Make them the focus of some prayer time, asking God to refine your ideas and redirect you where necessary.
- What does the gospel and little children have in common? How does a life of a little child show us why the good news of Jesus is truly good news?