



Bible Study: Gospel of Mark

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- Phase 2 of Mark's gospel which is teaching and discipleship
- Same model of 1) Public Instruction and 2) Private Explanation

Jesus challenges Religious Tradition

- By appealing to SCRIPTURE and the KINGDOM

Marriage and Divorce (1-12)

- Deut. 24 is only place in Torah that speaks to divorce
- Even in the Torah, God is looking out for the vulnerable
- Jesus affirms the OT teaching of the theological significance and permanence of marriage.

Theological significance: Basis of the family; God's design from the beginning of Creation; it's the relationship metaphor that Scripture uses to describe our relationship to Christ

Permanence: God's will is that it not be broken because it's been brought about by God.

Children in the Kingdom (13-16)

- This connects with last week's story on who is the greatest...
- Children, of no value in that society, receive an invitation to Jesus, a blessing from Jesus, and a declaration that the kingdom belongs to them

Contrasting Rank and Status in Christ's Kingdom (17-31)

- Rich ruler would have been the highest status in society; compare to children as one of the lowest

-Ruler would have been considered “blessed by God” due to his wealth; appearance of obedience and godliness

Jesus gives a very serious (and seemingly unfair!!) demand to this man

Consider the following:

-There are lots of rich people that follow Jesus and in fact are benefactors of his ministry (see Luke’s gospel)

-Why is “do not defraud” in Jesus’ list of commandments

-Remember the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

Jesus has the right to call out the things in our lives...

Is there something in our lives that we are so tied to that if Jesus asked us to give it away we’d refuse?

Group Questions

1. In the conversation on marriage and divorce, we see God’s original plan and understand the concessions that the law provided due to people’s sinfulness. In what other areas can we be guilty of operating out of God’s original plan because our “hearts are hardened” toward it?
2. Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who come like a little child. We are to have the same kind of childlike trust in God. Where are we still lacking in our ability to fully trust God? What can we do to “grow younger” in our trust?
3. With the rich young ruler, he wasn’t willing to part from his wealth to follow Jesus. Is there something in our lives that we are so tied to that if Jesus asked us to give it away we’d refuse? How does one get to that point and how can we make sure we never have to face that?
4. In our last story, Jesus gives a promise that those who have lost things for his sake and the sake of the gospel will receive it back – both in this life and in eternity. Have you experienced this? Are there things that you are hoping/believing/asking God to restore that you’ve lost?