

## **Recap of 10/22/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 10:1-5):**

- 1. In Mark 10:1-12 Jesus visits the region of Perea where some Pharisees raised the issue of divorce to try to trap Him by getting Him to contradict Moses (Deuteronomy 24:1-4) or to offend Herod Antipas, the adulterous, divorced ruler over Perea who beheaded John the Baptist over the issue of divorce; or to take sides between the schools of Shammai and Hillel. Shammai represented the strict view of divorce; only if a wife committed adultery. Hillel represented the liberal view, divorce for any reason.*
- 2. Jesus directs them to the Scriptures. They cite Deuteronomy 24. Jesus counters their appeal to Deuteronomy 24 by explaining that Moses permitted divorce because of the hardness of their hearts. It was not God's original intention as expressed in Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. It is God's intent that marriage be a monogamous, heterosexual, life-long union. Deuteronomy 24 was given to regulate divorce, and for the protection of the wife being put away by her husband. It was meant to control it not promote it; to discourage it; not encourage it.*

- 3. - "There are times in every good marriage when a husband and wife don't like each other very much. There are occasions when they feel as though they will never love their partners again. Emotions are like that. They flatten out occasionally like an automobile tire with a nail in the tread. Riding on the rim is a pretty bumpy experience for everyone on board.... What will you do, then, when unexpected tornadoes blow through your home, or when the doldrums leave your sails sagging and silent? Will you pack it in and go home to Mama? Will you pout and cry and seek ways to strike back? Or will your commitment hold you steady? These questions must be addressed now, before Satan has an opportunity to put his noose of discouragement around your neck. Set your jaw and clench your fists. Nothing short of death must ever be permitted to come between the two of you. Nothing!" (Dobson)*

*- "Divorce often looks like the easy solution to a very unpleasant situation.... However, divorce and its aftermath are difficult for both partners and rarely deliver on the promise of a "quick fix." It is usually far more painful than advertised. Everyone loses when a marriage turns sour, especially the children involved. Surprisingly, their grandparents struggle too.... Certainly, there are no winners when a marriage begins to unravel" (Dobson)*

### **4. Two mistakes are made concerning divorce:**

*-not seeing the seriousness of divorce (Malachi 2:16)*

*-putting divorce in a category all by itself, treating it as an unpardonable sin.*

*McGrath, in the NIV Bible Handbook writes: "However, while God hates divorce (Mal. 2:13-16) He does not hate the divorced. With Him there is always hope of forgiveness and redemption." (McGrath)*