

## He Cried the More a Great Deal

### Mark Chapter Ten



~ The members of our Spiritual Safari expedition team do not claim to be experts about marriage or any other part of life. We all look to the Bible for our individual answers to problems and issues that we need help with. We believe all the answers to all of the questions that will ever arise in life can be found only in the Word of God. We are seeing a lot of familiar territory lately in Mark as we cover ground we already plowed in Matthew. Well, Mark just breezes from one account to the next, and this leg of our journey is no exception; in fact, there is no exception in the Book of Mark! So, let's go now with Mark through the strange geography he records with Jesus. We're, actually, just slipping away from verse thirty of the last chapter because Jesus is making His final route towards Jerusalem now. Somehow, I just don't believe He wanted a huge crowd to see Him on His way....

***1 And he arose from thence and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther east side of Jordan by Decapolis: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.***

***2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.***

~ Of course, the Pharisees aren't really interested in Jesus answers; they just want to entangle Him in His own words. They had their own viewpoint concerning marriage and divorce, and this is just a trick question. Is it lawful to put away your wife? If He said no, then He would contradict Moses and bring Him into conflict with Herod. Herod had just put away his wife and married his sister-in-law. John is dead now because he had spoken out about this matter! Jesus was NOT going to let His death be connected to this issue of agreement or disagreement with Herod. If Jesus had said yes in answer to their question, then they would have accused Him of holding a liberal theology....

***3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?***

***4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.***

~ Deuteronomy chapter twenty-four verses one and two give this Mosaic system of law concerning this matter. Moses permitted divorce in that manner. It would amount to the flimsiest excuse being acceptable to send her on back to momma's house. Maybe she didn't act right at the dinner table with her husband's boss the other night. If so, she was gone! That was never God's intention nor Moses intention. Jesus answers with a fundamental answer that is important to grasp. This will now be turned from a question about divorce into a discussion about marriage.

I am sure we need to talk more about marriage than we do about divorce today. It has always been a mystery to me how people will ask their friends for advice about whether or not they should get a divorce; but they NEVER ask for advice about whether they should get married. If someone DOES ask for your advice about marriage – be careful – it's a trick question, too! Being honest will likely be the end of that friendship. When a couple get ready to be married, they never bother to talk to a preacher, except to come and tell him they want to be married and demand his blessing! Young couples just aren't interested in finding out whether the preacher would approve or not, that's for sure. The only real question they ever seem to have is: how much money will it cost? ~

***5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.***

***6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.***

***7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;***

***8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.***

***9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.***

***10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.***

***11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.***

***12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.***

~ Well, Jesus gives them their answer in the form of the only Scripturally acceptable reason for divorce under any circumstances - adultery - but divorce on demand was allowed because of the hardness of their hearts. Jesus takes us all back to God's ideal at creation before sin was even in this world. Divorce was simply not part of the plan or program of God at that time. God had something much better in mind for mankind. I think we could say that murder was not in His plan, either; but murderers have been forgiven for their sins! Divorced people can be forgiven, too, and they can be remarried under certain circumstances, Scripturally speaking. I'm not sure why, but the church seems to have an easier time forgiving a murderer than it does a divorcee. Neither one of these sins should bear any more of a mark than any other sinner who has been saved by grace – as in, you and me!

Jesus is saying the marriage bond is stronger than the parent-child relationship; the child may be disowned but marriage is only broken by unfaithfulness. This discourse ends up relating much more to marriage than to divorce. Jesus is teaching here that marriage is something that God makes. God is the Only One that can join two people – a male and a female – together in marriage and that is the original intent of the Creator. Any violation at all of this is sin; but it's not an unpardonable sin, you may be assured.

We hear statistics of divorce today, and it's well over fifty percent. I have heard numbers as high as eighty percent. Obviously, we're working this problem from the wrong angle as we lock the stable after the horse has run

away. If the divorce rate is eighty percent, then ninety percent of the people getting married ought not get married - because only ten percent of them stay together - and marriage is, by and large, almost always for the wrong reasons as they reject God altogether in their life! For MOST people, the sin is NOT in the divorce; the sin was in the marriage! Divorce for them just happens to be the wages of their sin! It can certainly mean spiritual death. You might want to think twice about whether God has arranged your marriage because that's the Christian way to decide: in prayer and Bible study.

This is the strongest statement regarding divorce that you can find in the Bible. All Scripture regarding divorce must be induced before a proper deduction can be made. Our parallel passages in Matthew list fornication and adultery as the only legitimate reasons for a divorce. Mark omits that because Mark is writing to the Romans who did not know the Mosaic law while Matthew was writing to people that understood the Mosaic law perfectly well. Also, you do well to stay away from Romans chapter seven at verse two, as that has nothing to do with divorce today. When a woman had an unfaithful husband, under the Mosaic system, that man was stoned to death. So, that woman didn't have a living husband after that: meaning, she was free to remarry! If we did that today you wouldn't be able to drive down the road because of all the rock piles....

***13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.***

***14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.***

***15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.***

***16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.***

~ It's only the children who suffer in a divorce. Jesus Himself, Personally, comforts those children. Jesus never picked anyone else up in His arms like this that I can find record of! Of course, we know broken homes lead to broken young lives and bad things happening to those young people. It's not an accident; that's the way it works out. The apostles rebuke those who had brought the children to Jesus, and that's where the big problem is today: preventing children from hearing the Gospel. Children of a broken home are almost always prevented from hearing the Gospel or they question it at an early age because there is no example of it given in the home. The debate about whether children should hear about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ is typically a tool of hurt used by one party or the other in a divorce. Instead of debating, we should just teach children the Gospel!

It seems we're trying to make children into adults as quickly as possible these days. Usually, in a divorce, one parent will say something like, "... we'll let Suzy grow up and she can make her own decisions about God." Jesus says, "you adults need to become as little children!" There is no child alive that rejects the Lord Jesus Christ when He is presented Biblically to a young heart. Later in life they will have the information they need to decide for or against God. At least they'll be able to make an informed decision if they have been taught the Gospel. Growing and developing and life experience is important, and it's even better if you're a child of God. Most of us have it all completely inverted, and we need to abandon our cleverness and sophistication and our high knowledge that we all want to brag about and return to the simplicity of our childhood. With simple faith we can just trust God! Of course, the Bible also says to train a child up in the way he should go and he will return to it later in life. That way is a Godly way that they might get away from; but they'll come back if you have taught them right! We had further remarked about this in our commentary on Matthew, and I suggest you also read that commentary and compare Matthew's account with this....

***17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?***

**18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.**

**19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.**

**20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.**

**21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.**

**22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.**

~ And, just like that, the rich young ruler comes and goes again. We saw him in this account the first time in Matthew and we will really take a close look at this man in Luke. In our day of affluence and wealth this teaching is certainly very applicable. Most people want to spiritualize this and say there isn't a direct application for today; well, I disagree. See, the young ruler has legitimate and fair questions for Jesus. This is a man living under Mosaic Law. Jesus is trying to get this young man to think when He asks him why the young man would call Him good? The commandments that regard man's relationship to God are called Pioutis and the commands that regard man's relationship to man are called Probatas. Jesus doesn't mention man's relationship to God here to the young man. Well, this young man had no problem with that second section of the commandments. He really HAD kept all those commandments. What this man lacked was a relationship to God. Jesus knew this and yet Jesus says He loved the man. The problem the young man had is that he was too rich! Of course, the reason Jesus is good is because He is God! If the young man had followed Jesus at that time, he would have found that out sooner than later! The reason I think the rich young ruler ultimately did follow Jesus is because some people believe the rich young ruler was Saul of Tarsus. Of course, if the young man had

followed Jesus, it would have led him to the cross! Jesus was going to die for this man's sins and yet this man went away grieved – for he had great possessions. This is a tremendous lesson for us....

***23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!***

***24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!***

***25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.***

~ Paul said the love of money is the root of all evils. He was merely repeating what Jesus is saying here in this discourse. Money will buy you almost anything except eternal life. Eternal life is a gift we receive. That old rock song is woefully wrong because money can buy the love of many people. It is a total lie to say money can't buy you love. Someone says that's not real love; but it sure is real to the person receiving the "loving!" This discourse reveals the impossibility of man entering Heaven by his own means or by earthly riches.

Naturally, it's humanly impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle; but with God, all things are possible. Man, however, still can't do it – man needs the Lord Jesus. Money will buy a bed, but it won't buy sleep. Money will buy you food, but it will not buy you an appetite. Money will buy you medicine, but it won't buy you health. Money will buy a house, but it won't buy a home or family. Money will buy a diamond, but it won't buy TRUE love! Money will buy a church, but it won't buy salvation! The rich man is going to have to get rid of that which stands between him and the True and Living God. See, friends, if you want to follow God, you'll find out the reason He is good is because He is God! Well, that's our warning against riches; and I hear Him loud and clear! Of course, riches is not the problem in my life by any means....

**26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?**

**27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

**28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.**

**29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,**

**30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

**31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.**

**32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,**

**33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:**

**34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.**

~ Well, Jesus is telling them again they are going to Jerusalem where He is to die; and this time, they are afraid. Obviously, they aren't that concerned, though; because here we have another account of them asking who will be greatest in the kingdom before Jesus is even done speaking. Matthew told us their mother came along asking this for them. Well, James was made a martyr and John was put out on the island of Patmus, although it is not



commonly believed that John was made a martyr - but, either way, it wasn't pleasant....

***35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.***

***36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?***

***37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.***

***38 But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?***

***39 And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:***

***40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.***

***41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.***

***42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.***

***43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:***

***44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.***

***45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.***

**46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.**

**47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

**48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

**49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.**

**50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.**

**51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.**

**52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.**

~ For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered to but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many. That is the key verse of the Gospel of Mark, to be sure. And, as our safari moves on, many people have a problem with Jesus entering Jericho with just Bartimaeus and not the other blind man, too. Well, anyone who feels that way is probably the third blind man; so, I don't worry too much about it! Luke will finish this account by filling in some final details, and we'll see the reason why it is given as it is. Mark is emphasizing just one healing for a very definite and specific purpose ~

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