



Mark 10

An OCF Bible Study

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What was Jesus' primary focus here as well as during his entire ministry (v. 1)? Teaching the people the truths of the Kingdom. The greatest need of the people was to understand.

Here we have another entourage coming to check out Jesus (v. 2). What were the motives of the Pharisees in asking Jesus their question? The Pharisees are trying to get Jesus to speak against Moses (Scriptures) and/or against popular thought. They hope they have Him trapped between a rock and a hard place.

How did Jesus answer the Pharisees question (v. 3)? Jesus responded in typical rabbinic fashion with another question. He asked the Pharisees what Moses—the authority whom they all professed to recognize—taught. For the answer Jesus sent them to God's Word rather than debating traditional rabbinical interpretations which the Pharisees treated as authoritative.¹

Why did the Mosaic law (Deuteronomy 24:1-4) permit divorce (v. 4)? It was a concession to the hardness of their hearts (v. 5). Divorce was never looked upon favorably by God, but was permitted because of the hardness of heart of either offending or offended party.

~~The law of~~ That law in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 was really given as a *protection* to the divorced wife. Moses permitted divorce, providing a certificate of divorce was given to the wife. Its primary function was to provide a degree of protection for the woman who had been repudiated by her husband. It protected the divorced woman from any charge of adultery, which was punishable by death. It also, in effect, gave legal permission for the woman to remarry.

They were asking about divorce (v. 6). How does Jesus change their focus? Jesus now transitions from a talk about divorce to a talk about marriage.

What is God's perspective on marriage/divorce (vv. 7-9)? What God has joined together is spiritually binding before God. God's clear preference was no divorce (Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:8). Marriage is not merely a social contract; it's a covenant between a husband, a wife, and God.

Jesus' disciples also asked Him again about the same matter (v. 10). This is not a two-verse teaching of all there is to know about divorce and remarriage. We can only understand this passage by taking into account the whole counsel of God on the subject of divorce: Matthew 19:9, for example.

What was the disciples' attitude toward the children (vv. 13-16)? In that day, a child was the least significant person. Children were regarded more as property than individuals. It was understood that they were to be seen and not heard. Children were unimportant, insignificant, an annoyance.

How did Jesus respond (vv. 14-15)? What was His attitude toward the children? He holds them up. They are valuable, important. They are examples of how we must enter the kingdom—with a childlike faith.

What was the focus of the rich young man's question: *what must I do to inherit eternal life* (v. 17)? The rich young man obviously did not believe that he had eternal life and wanted to know what he needed to *do* in order to get it. He thought eternal life was a matter of earning and deserving, as opposed to a matter of relationship.

How did Jesus respond (v. 19)? What did He tell him to do? Jesus gave him six of the Ten Commandments to follow to inherit eternal life. The six commands Jesus mentioned are easily verifiable in conduct. They are aimed at our relationships with our fellow man. The other four are aimed at our relationship with God.

At the end of the exchange, what was the man's response (v. 22)? He went away sad. Note that Jesus loved the man even though He knew the man was going to reject Him and walk away. This is the only time in the Gospels when someone was called to follow Jesus and did not do so.²

What was the rich man's underlying problem? Essentially, this man was an idolater. Wealth was his God.

Why were the disciples amazed (v. 24)? The disciples' amazement arose from the popular belief that riches were a result of God's blessing for righteousness [Solomon, Job]. They thought riches were an advantage, not a disadvantage in one's relationship with God.³

Rather than rebuking Peter's self-centered comment, Jesus graciously promised Him what (v. 28)? Disciples who have decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly can anticipate great blessing in this age (along with persecution). Whatever we have given up for Him will be returned to us many times over in this age and in the age to come.

What was the meaning of v. 31? The desire to be praised and to gain recognition should be foreign to a follower of Christ. Jesus wants us to embrace last as a choice, allowing others to be preferred before us, and not because we are forced to be last. This verse is a call to humility.

This is the third and final time Jesus told His disciples that He was going to die and rise again (v. 32-34).

Why were they were astonished? Jesus was walking into an ambush as He headed for Jerusalem—deliberately and without fear. They were afraid of what He described that lay ahead. The disciples are to be commended for continuing to follow Jesus. In spite of astonishment, fear, confusion and uncertainty, they followed.

How would you characterize the question asked by James and John of Jesus (vv. 35-37)? Their request seems almost incredible. They wanted Jesus to give them "whatever" they requested: carte blanche. When asked what that might be, they explained that they wanted the positions of highest honor in Jesus' messianic kingdom. The person who sat on a ruler's "right" hand side enjoyed the highest assigned position, and the person who sat on his "left," the second highest. These brothers obviously believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and they thought He was going to establish His kingdom soon, probably when they reached Jerusalem.⁴

What was the cup (v. 38)? God's wrath. The punishment Jesus was going to bear for the sins of the human race.

What was the baptism of Jesus (v. 38)? His suffering and dying.

How would you describe the reaction of the other ten disciples (v. 41)? Their selfish ambition comes through loud and clear. They wanted to be equally considered for the (non-existent) prestigious positions.

Jesus tells them how to be great—for God (v. 43). He clarified the method for obtaining greatness in the Kingdom.

What do you need to become if you want to be great in the kingdom of God? A servant. This is the paradox of the Kingdom of God. **Who is the ultimate servant model for us?** Jesus

What if you want to be great (for God) in the neighborhood or workplace? How do you do that? Principles for servant leadership are God's principles and they apply everywhere. In the Kingdom community, status, money and popularity are not the prerequisites for leadership. Humble service is the greatest (and only) prerequisite as displayed by Jesus' own ministry.

How would you describe Bartimaeus (v. 46-52)? Persistent and determined. People tried to shut him up but they couldn't. He wasn't discouraged because no one led him to Jesus nor by those who told him to stay away.

What was Bartimaeus asking for (v. 47)? The blind man knew what he needed from Jesus—mercy. He didn't come thinking that God owed him. He wasn't negotiating. All he wanted from Jesus was mercy.

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¹Dr. Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Mark, 2014 Edition* (published by Sonic Light, www.soniclight.com), pp. 133

²Ibid, pp. 139

³Ibid, pp. 139

⁴Ibid, pp. 152