

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 10

vs. 1-12:

Jesus went from Capernaum down to the region of Judea across the Jordan River (Perea). As the people gathered, Jesus taught them the ways of God. The Pharisees asked concerning divorce. Jesus responded that Moses allowed divorce because of their uncaring attitude. God's purpose and plan for marriage remain the same, however. The two are to become as one and they are to remain together as long as they both live. Jesus went on to tell His disciples that if a man or woman divorce and re-marry (while their first spouse is alive), then they are committing adultery.

vs. 13-16:

People brought their children to Jesus, but the disciples rebuked the parents. Jesus then corrected His disciples saying that little children are to be allowed to come, for they represent the type of people that the Kingdom of God belongs to (innocent and trusting). Jesus then went on blessing and holding the children in His arms.

vs. 17-31:

As Jesus was walking a man approached Him, asking how to be saved. Jesus asked why the man called Him good (such an admission was equal to God). Jesus then went on to ask if the man had kept the commandments (this was the usual answer given by the religious leaders). The man stated that he had obeyed all of these commands from birth. Jesus did not question the man's honesty or if he had kept the intent of the law, but went on to tell the man to go and sell everything, giving the proceeds to the poor and then come and follow. The man went away sorrowful. His riches were more important to him than his salvation.

Jesus then told His disciples that it is difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom. Jesus gives an example of how difficult it is and the disciples then wonder who can be saved. Jesus reminds us that it is only by the grace of God that people can be saved! Jesus then also informs them that whatever people have to give up and sacrifice for the sake of the gospel, they will be repaid in a far greater way in eternity.

Those who had first opportunity (and rejected) will be left out; whereas those who are the last to hear (and accept) will be welcomed.

vs. 32-34:

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus again pulled His disciples aside and warned them of what would take place there. He would be betrayed, condemned to death, handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, spat upon, flogged and killed. On the third day, Jesus told them, He would be raised back to life.

vs. 35-45:

Two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, went to Jesus and asked for the honor of sitting on either side of Him in His Kingdom. Jesus

told them that they did not comprehend what they were asking. He then asked if they could endure the hardships and sacrifice that He was about to bear. Not realizing what they were saying, they answered affirmatively. Jesus then informs them that they will go through the same type of persecution and turmoil, but for the honor of who sits besides Him, that was not for Him to decide.

The remainder of the disciples became upset about the entire incident. Jesus again instructs them that if they seek greatness, then they must learn to serve others and follow His example (He, the greatest, was giving His life so others could be saved!).

vs. 46-52:

On the way back towards Jerusalem (at Jericho), Bartimaeus (a blind man) began calling from the roadside where he had been begging, to Jesus. He asked that Jesus might show Him mercy. Even when others told him to be quiet, he persisted and Jesus called for him. When Bartimaeus went to Jesus, he asked to be healed. Jesus told him that his faith had healed him and Bartimaeus' sight was restored and he followed Jesus.

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 10:

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus?
2. Why did Moses permit divorce?
3. What must man not separate?
4. To whom does the Kingdom of Heaven belong?
5. What did the man ask Jesus?
6. In verse 21, what did Jesus tell the man to do?
7. What did Jesus reply when asked, "Who then can be saved"?
8. What should we be willing to leave for Jesus and gospel?
9. What would happen to Jesus in Jerusalem?
10. What did James and John want from Jesus?
11. Why was Bartimaeus given sight?

BONUS:

1. What do you think about divorce? Why?
2. Who is easier to save – the rich or the poor? Explain.
3. Why is being a servant so important?