

The Gospel of Mark 9:30 - 10:12 (ESV)

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

Chapter 10 Parallel account: Matt. 19:3-12, 5:31-32

10 And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

²And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” ⁵And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

¹⁰And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Discussion Question

Have you ever taken a test? What strategy did you use to answer questions that were difficult?

Bible Study Questions

Context: Chapter 9 Recap

1. Why didn't the disciples ask Jesus to explain what he meant by **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”** (verse 31) (See *Mark 8:31, Isa. 53:3*) Is there anything you hesitant asking the Lord about?

2. Why were the disciples concerned about their “pecking order” with Jesus in verses 33-37? How does the debate over positional leadership reflect their expectations of what Jesus as the Messiah of Israel was going to do?

3. Who was the man John saw casting out devils verse 38? Does Jesus’ response change the way you think about people outside the church that do good works? (See *Luke 10:1-7, Phil 1:15-18*)

4. Discuss some reasons why the Pharisees wanted to test Jesus. (Matt. 23:13, 27:18)

5. What was the test? What were the possible ramifications for Jesus for answering “Yes” or “No”? (Matt. 19:3, Mark 6:17-24, Lev. 18:16, 20:21)

6. Two schools of Jewish theology debated the interpretation Mosaic law with respect to when a divorce could be permitted, (House of Shammai

and House of Hilel). Which one do you think was most popular during this time? (*Deut. 24:1-4*)

7. What strategy does Jesus use to answer the Pharisees in verse 10:3-9?

8. Does God permit divorce under any circumstance? (Malachi 2:16, Matt. 19:9, 5:31-32, 1 Corinthians 7:15)

9. How does ancient Jewish theology about divorce relate to contemporary views of divorce? Which one do you ascribe to?

10. What change would you like to make as a result of this study? How can the group support you?
