



1. The conflict
2. God's purpose
3. The implications of discipleship

#1 :

“From this point forward the narrative moves swiftly and relentlessly toward its inevitable climax in Jerusalem.”

William Lane

#2 :

Mark 3:6

“The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.”

#3 :

“Their objective is to maintain a permissive divorce policy-and the more permissive the better. Schurer summarizes the Jewish position on divorce thus, ‘divorce was relatively easy in those days and the Pharisees and rabbis intended to keep it so. The Pharisees reflect the view that marriage is a disposable contractual arrangement.’”

James Edwards

#4 :

“Deuteronomy 24 was given ‘because your hearts were hard,’ says Jesus. It is, in other words, a text of concession, not a text of intention. You do not learn to fly an airplane by following the instructions for making a crash landing. The same is true for marriage and divorce. The exceptional measures necessary when a marriage fails are of no help in discovering the meaning and intention of marriage. Jesus endeavors to recover God’s will for marriage, not to argue about possible exceptions to it. His opponents ask what is permissible; he points to what is commanded. Deu 24:1-3, he argues is not a pretext for divorce but an attempt to limit its worst consequences for women. The divine intention for marriage cannot be determined from a text about divorce.”

James Edwards

#5 :

“Divorce is contrary to the divine institution, and contrary to the nature of marriage, contrary to the divine action by which the union is affected. It is precisely here that its wickedness becomes singularly apparent-it is the sundering by man of a union God has constituted. Divorce is the breaking of a seal which has been engraven by the hand of God.”

John Murray

#6 :

“Jesus does not conceive of marriage on the grounds of its dissolution but on the grounds of its architectural design and purpose by God. The intent of Jesus teaching is not to shackle those who fail in marriage with debilitating guilt. The question is not whether God forgives those who fail in marriage. The question in our day of impermanent commitments and casual divorce is whether we as Christians will hear the unique call of God to discipleship in marriage.”

James Edwards

#7 :

“Did you ever notice how the Bible ends? It closes with that happiest of conclusions, marriage and happiness. The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his bride hath made herself ready. Infinite felicity closes the volume of revealed history. Earthquakes, and falling stars, and the pouring out of vials, follow with terrible speed; but it all ends in everlasting bliss and eternal union. Even thus shall it be with us, for the Lord hath blessed us hitherto.”

Charles Spurgeon