

# **POTOMAC HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Community Group Study Guide for May 3, 2020*

The 29th Sermon in a series on The Gospel of Mark, "The King and His Cross"

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## *"Jesus and Divorce"*

**INTRODUCTION:** *"What are you choosing?"*

**\*\* Key Questions**

1. Have you ever gone deer hunting at the symphony? Just checking.
2. When considering marriage, what are you choosing? And what are you leaving? \*\*  
(go beyond the simple, first response answer)

**BACKGROUND:** *Significant Challenges*

3. When coming to this text, what are the challenges it poses for us? \*\*

**Read Mark 10:1-2 & Matthew 19:3: A QUESTION OF TESTING**

4. Why does Mark give us the location of this conversation?
5. How is the Pharisees question an attempt to trap Jesus? \*\*
6. How does the Pharisees legalism backfire on them?

**Read Mark 10:3, 6-9: A QUESTION OF LAW**

7. When asked about divorce, why do you think Jesus talks about marriage? \*\*

**Read Mark 10:4-5, 10-12: THE QUESTION OF EXPLANATION**

8. Jesus implies that they're asking the wrong question. What's the right question?
9. Why does Jesus say an unbiblical divorce and remarriage is tantamount to adultery? \*\*

**APPLICATION:** *What about us?*

10. How does this hard teaching apply to our situation today?

**CONCLUSION:** *The Real Question*

11. So, what is the real question, and why is it important? \*\*

### **Seven Principles of Divorce and Remarriage**

1. Marriage is the sacred union between one man and one woman and God's intention is for marriage to last a lifetime.
2. Divorce is not always sinful.
3. Divorce is permitted, but not required, on the ground of sexual immorality.
4. Divorce is permitted, but not required, on the ground of desertion by an unbelieving spouse.
5. When the divorce was not permissible, any subsequent remarriage (to someone other than the original spouse) results in adultery.
6. In situations where the divorce was permissible, remarriage is also permissible.
7. Improperly divorced and remarried Christians should stay as they are, but repent and be forgiven of their past sins and make whatever amends are necessary.

Taken from "A Sermon on Divorce and Remarriage" by Kevin DeYoung, 11/3/10,  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/a-sermon-on-divorce-and-remarriage/>

**For further study I highly recommend the book, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers by Dr. Jim Newheiser of RTS, Charlotte.**

Close with prayer. Here are some suggestions from *The Billy Graham Center*:

**Pray through Acts 4:24-30.** This is the first corporate prayer in The Book of Acts, and it's in response to difficulty. It's a remarkable prayer, as they didn't ask God to take away the threats. You can pray in line with each point, or you can simply pray the words of Acts 4, included below:

**1. Start by acknowledging God's ultimate control.** Start with God instead of our circumstances. Focusing on God's greatness shapes our perspective on everything else. **Acts 4:24b**, "*Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...*"

**2. Recognize how our world is fallen and marked by sin.** When sin entered the world, division, anger, sickness, disease, and death came with it. Prayer reminds us that our broken world is marked by pain and sorrow. **Acts 4:25-26**, "*who through the mouth of our father David, Your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against His Anointed."*"

**3. Acknowledge God's remedy for our dilemma.** In the middle of uncertainty, we confess God's certain plan that led to our rescue. God was not surprised by their persecution, nor is He surprised by our pandemic. **Acts 4:27-28**, "*for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.*"

**4. Ask God to give us boldness for the gospel.** They didn't ask God to deliver them from persecution; instead, they asked for boldness for the gospel. **Acts 4:29-30**, "*And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.*"

- Please remember to pray for your missionaries, the work of the PCA, and our church.

**5. You may close with the following:**

*Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, You are not surprised by the pandemic we face. It reminds us of the reality and impact of sin in our world. Look on the suffering we face today, and grant that Your servants might reach out with compassion to proclaim Your gospel to a broken world, giving ourselves to compassionate service to one another, protecting the vulnerable, and helping the hurting. We give You praise and thanks in the middle of our distress. You are our God, and we worship You. Amen.*