The Sanctity of Marriage

[Mar 10:1-12 ESV] – 1 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. 2 And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." 5 And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. 6 But 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, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 10 And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

I. Intro
   A. Jesus is still teaching and preparing His disciples.
   B. The Pharisees are still trying to trap Jesus into disagreeing with Moses and the law.
   C. Jesus will take the matter to a greater depth that the pharisees were seeing.
   D. When we are looking at the law and balancing that with grace, we begin to see the heart behind the law.
   E. Jesus turns this question about divorce into a teaching about the sanctity of marriage.
II. Text
   A. Verses 1-2
      1. Jesus is now headed towards Jerusalem, we know the result of this march.
      2. The Pharisees want to trip up Jesus, but He gets to the heart of the problem.
   B. Verses 3-5
      1. Divorce is allowed, under the law, due to the hardness of man's heart.
      2. Our hard hearts get in the way, God allows for divorce, but Jesus quickly turns the response to the Pharisees to marriage.
   C. Verses 6-9
      1. Marriage is meant for good, one of the strong pillars of the faith: The Home, The Church, The Community should all be yielded to God.
      2. What God has put together, let not man separate: Marriage is intended by God to be way more than playing house.
   D. Verses 10-12
      1. There are many questions regarding these verses, many what ifs…
      2. My challenge to you in this, as with all matters of the faith, is to approach the throne of Grace with:
         a) Confidence to ask questions and seek truth from scripture
         b) With brokenness rather than justification
         c) With a desire to see how God is going to rebuild, restore, and redeem what has been broken
III. Points
   A. Marriage is From God
      1. Any violation of God's plan for marriage is sin, missing the mark
      2. Marriage is a gift to us:
         a) The gift of relationship and care
         b) The gift of selfless sacrifice and service
         c) The gift of children
         d) The gift to our children of the example on earth of dependance on God, forgiveness, confession, accountability, and blessing.
      3. God gave marriage:

a) [Gen 1:27-28 ESV] – 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
b) [Gen 2:18-25 ESV] – 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

4. Just as our relationship with Christ is an adventure, marriage is an adventure.
   a) God created man specifically for his role, and He created woman specifically for her role.
   b) We need each other, for more than just procreation
5. We see the world differently, we process things differently, and it is a blessing to walk in covenant relationship as man and woman, husband and wife.
6. Beauty in differences:
   a) Men seem to think more logically, while women seem to think more emotionally.
   b) These two things work beautifully together and broaden our perspective on everything.
   c) To make every decision based on logic would miss the fullness of the impact of the decision
   d) To make every decision emotionally would sometimes lack the direction needed for decisive action.
   e) Men's brains have been described as compartmentalized: We can only function well in one or two compartments at a time
   f) Women have been described to think more broadly, understanding all the things going on and how decisions impact every area.
   g) These are two very different perspectives, and both are needed and important.
   h) Thus creates the adventure!

B. Marriage is For God
1. Your marriage is to be an example to the world of a believers relationship with Christ.
2. Marriage is a demonstration of Christ's relationship with the church.
3. God gives us the gift of marriage for a blessing, but also to BLESS HIM.
4. When scripture teaches that two become one flesh:
   a) This is way more than the physically relationship of marriage
   b) This is also speaking of how God sees us once we enter this relationship.
5. Just as He abides in us, and we in him, marriage is His abiding presence joining two individuals into one.
6. Marriage is an example of this truth:
7. LOOK TO EPHESIANS 5
   a) Walk in LOVE
   b) Walk in LIGHT
   c) Walk in WISDOM

d) Walk together as an example of this truth.
(1) Wives are to yield as we are all to yield to God
(2) Husbands are to serve and give sacrificially, just as Christ did for the church.

8. Our Christian was needs physical reminders of the sacred truths of scripture:
a) Baptism
b) Communion
c) Marriage
9. We must take marriage more seriously when we discover:
a) It is a testimony of Christ and His Church
b) Men and Women are joined together as one, just as the church body is joined to Christ.

C. Marriage and Grace
1. Reminder: Marriage is a covenant relationship between two people who are sinners in need of a savior.
a) This shows us our need for grace
b) This allows us to show grace to our spouse
c) And this reminds us of our example in Christ.
2. By the law there is Biblical grounds for divorce
3. What happens when your marriage fails?
a) God knows the pain of abandonment and unfaithfulness
(1) Israel is referred to as an adulterous people
(2) In Hosea, God uses Hosea's marriage to Gomer as a living example of Israel's unfaithfulness and God's persistent love
(3) In Jeremiah, God accuses Israel of committing adultery with other gods.
(4) In Ezekiel, Israel is personified as an adulterous wife
(5) In James: [Jas 4:4 ESV] – 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
b) God allows for restoration and rebuilding, but scars still remain.
4. The standard is set, and the standard can only be met through the strength of Christ.
5. Regarding the last two verses of our text:
a) Approach God in brokenness rather that justification, pride, and defensiveness
b) Divorce is painful: for the couple, for the kids, for the extended family.
c) God's grace is never more obvious than in our hurt.
d) Broken people are not going to get it right all the time, but God is still there, He is still with you to guide you, and He still wants what is best for you.

IV. Close
A. If you are going to have a successful marriage, you are going to have to get comfortable with:
1. Dependance on God
2. Saying the words, I'm sorry, lets work of this together
3. GRACE
B. The grace that saves you, also holds you.
C. Let your life, your marriage, your future marriage be an example of God's grace.