

Our culture celebrates personal happiness above covenant faithfulness. But Jesus reminds us: the problem isn't the institution—it's the condition of the hearts permitted by the culture. So let's elevate the covenant. Check your heart. Is there pride? Bitterness? Self-righteousness? Indifference?

You're not going to "fix" a marriage by pointing fingers and drawing lines with a hard heart. You fix a marriage by submitting to the covenant, softening your heart, and surrendering to Jesus. If you are married, surrender something today. If you are not, remember marriage is an unchangeable covenant, not an amendable contract.

TAKEAWAY

Discussion Questions—Mark 10:1-12

1. Why is divorce such a controversial topic even today?
2. What does 'hardness of heart' mean?
3. God's purpose for marriage is that the two persons become one flesh. What does that mean in practice?
4. If infidelity occurred and the offending spouse asks for forgiveness, must the offended spouse forgive and take back the guilty spouse?

ANSWERS: 1) Pharisees; 2) marriage, Genesis

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones

Sunday, August 17, 2025



Week 27: God's Institution of Marriage (Mark 10:1-12)

THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

(Core doctrines of the Christian faith in a question-and-answer format)

Question #5: What else did God create?

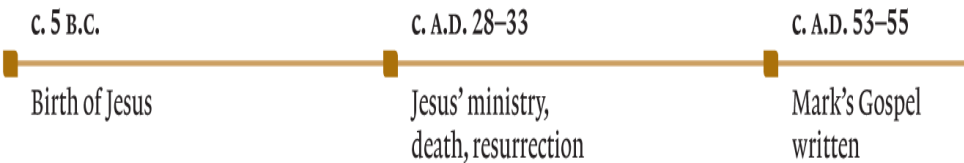
Answer: God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

Genesis 1:31

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. . . "

Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"



OUTLINE

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

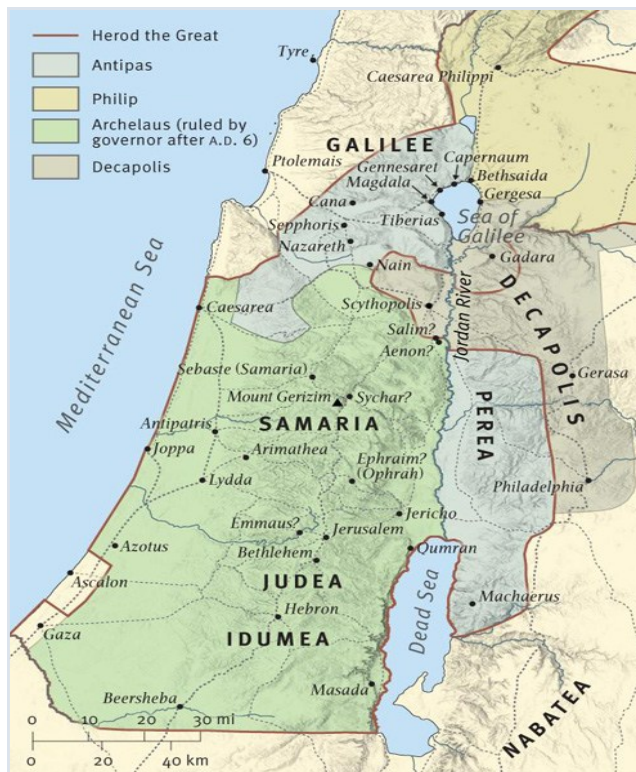
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



Sermon Notes

I. Moses' law on divorce (1-5)

- The _____ came to test Jesus (Mark 10:2)
- Jesus' first questions them (Mark 10:3)
- Moses allowed divorce? (Mark 10:4)

II. God's original design of _____ (6-9)

- Marriage was established by God in _____.
- God hates divorce –(Mark 10:6)
- Are there any exceptions? (Matthew 19:9)