

# Study of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 10 (Part 1)

### Background

In the last three chapters we saw a shift in Jesus' ministry as He put some distance between Himself and the antagonistic Jewish leaders and spent time teaching His disciples in Gentile regions. In chapter 9 Jesus returned to Galilee (9:30) but wanted did not want to draw a crowd as He continued to prepare His disciples for His impending death and resurrection. Now in chapter 10, as Jesus begins to make His way to Jerusalem for the last time, we see that He again begins to teach publicly to the people along the way (Mark 10:1).

1. Read Mark 10:1. Several shifts in Jesus' ministry are revealed in this verse. Answer the questions below and include the Scripture reference where you find the answer.

Location: Where was Jesus at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was He going? \_\_\_\_\_

Company: Who was Jesus teaching before? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was Jesus teaching now? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In 10:2 Mark tells us that Jesus is approached by the Pharisees (we haven't heard anything from the Pharisees since their brief meeting in 8:11). How do the Pharisees act toward Jesus?

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3. The Greek word translated "test" in 10:2 can be positive or negative. Whenever it is used to describe the actions of the Jewish leaders it is always used in a negative sense. Read Matthew 22:18 and John 8:6 (both of these passages use the same Greek word used in Mark 10:2). How do these verses shed light on the intent of the Pharisees? What was their purpose in "testing" Jesus in these situations?

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4. Divorce was about as common in Jewish society during Jesus day as it is in our country today. What does Jesus teach about God's intent for marriage in these verses? Does God want divorce? Does God allow divorce and if so, for what reasons? Give a Bible passage (or passages) to support your answer. (**Hint:** check cross references and parallel passages.)

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5. It is true that the marriage relationship has become difficult because of sin. But this doesn't change the fact that marriage is still good, advantageous, and a blessing from God. When cultures make it easy for people to get a divorce for any reason, they make light of this wonderful gift from God. If we recognize that marriage is a lifelong commitment not to be broken, we will not enter into it lightly. What passage from the Old Testament does Jesus quote to make this point?

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6. In the next section (Mark 10:13-16) Jesus once again uses an event to teach His disciples. Parents were bringing their children to Jesus so that He could bless them and pray for them (see Matthew 19:13-15). How did Jesus' disciples respond to this incident? How did Jesus react to the actions of His disciples?

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7. Our country allows (and in many cases provides for) the abortion of unborn babies. Arguments have recently been presented for allowing the abortion of born babies. What can we (and our society) learn about this issue from these words of Jesus?

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8. In verses 17-31 Jesus addresses the issue salvation. Take note of the question asked of Jesus "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v.17). The same question is asked of Paul in Acts 16:30. But Jesus and Paul give two very different responses to this question (Mark 10:19,21; Acts 16:31). How can there be more than one answer to this question? How are these two answers reconciled?

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9. Jesus' words in verse 27 announce the Biblical truth that salvation, if it depended on us human beings, would be impossible. Salvation comes from God and God alone! How can this serve as a comfort for us?

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10. Jesus' final statement in verses 29-31 also offer us a reminder about where true treasure is to be found. How do these words apply to you and your life?

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