**Pastor Marcus Robinson October 10, 2021**

**God’s Plan for Marriage**

Mark 10:1-12

**Key Truth:** Marriage is not just a piece of paper. It is a covenant held in the highestregards to God.

**Man’s Misunderstanding About Marriage:**

1. Man interprets the Law to benefit their own agenda.

 Deuteronomy 24:1

 A. Divorce is a resultof hardened hearts.Mark 10:5

**Jesus’ Clarification About Marriage:**

1.The Pharisees’ question was about divorce, but Jesus’

 answer was marriage. Mark 10:5-8

 A. Marriage was instituted by God, not man Genesis 1:26-27

2. Marriage is sacred to God Mark 10:9, Genesis 2:21-24

A.Marriage is between a man and a woman.

**Jesus’ Clarification about Divorce:** Mark 10:10, Matthew 19:9

1. Divorce should be the lastpossible option.

 A. Divorce effects more than yourself.Malachi 2:15-16

**The Truth About Us Vs the Cross:**

1. We have all fallen short of God’s standard but the cross

 redeems us. Romans 3:21-24

2. Jesus gives grace and mercy, not what we deserve. Romans 5:6-8

3. Grace and mercy empowers you to live obedient to the

 truth.

**Taking it Beyond The Walls:** True marriage is more than joining the bonds of a man and women; it is the union of two hearts connected to one source that is Our Lord Jesus Christ. Allow Jesus to be the mediator and final say in your decision making, especially when it comes to marriage.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

For some of us, this weekend’s sermon on divorce was really hard to hear. The good news is that no matter the state of our marriage, we know God absolutely cares for us. In Ephesians 5:21-33 we see how much he cares, as he gives the picture of the church (us) being his bride. Read through the passage and write down anything that points to (or compares) the church to being the “bride” of Christ.

God wants us to be an example of love, not just in marriage, but in all relationships. How could Ephesians 5:1-4 help us better follow God’s example at loving others.

Prevailing views on divorce in Jesus’ day not only devalued marriage but objectified women. It is in this context that Jesus was questioned by a Pharisee about divorce. Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4. How was Moses’ allowance for divorce being misused by the people of Jesus’ day?

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Read Mark 10:6-12: What portion of the Old Testament does Jesus cite in His response to the Pharisee’s question? What does that tell us about Jesus’ view of marriage? How does Jesus’ attitude about divorce differ from our culture’s?

If you have been through a divorce, how have you seen God redeem that pain of that experience for His glory?

What does it look like to trust Jesus with your marriage? If you are unmarried and wish to be, how can you trust God’s plan for your life? If you are married, how can you lean on Jesus to sustain your marriage?