

**Wednesday Oct 2 for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Loving Creator, you created men and women to be your partners in creation and to love one another. Teach us how to live in harmony with each other. Free us from all the hardness of heart that blocks us from understanding and embracing your ways. This we pray through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

**READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Mark  
Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12**

2\* The Pharisees approached and asked, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” They were testing him.<sup>a</sup>

3 He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?”

4 They replied, “Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.”<sup>b</sup>

5 But Jesus told them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment.

6 But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.<sup>c</sup>

7 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife],<sup>d</sup>

8 and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh.

9 Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

10 In the house the disciples again questioned him about this.

11<sup>e</sup> 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.”

13<sup>f</sup> And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.<sup>g</sup>

14 When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

15 Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child\* will not enter it.”<sup>h</sup>

16 Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

## Notes

\* [10:2–9] In the dialogue between Jesus and the Pharisees on the subject of divorce, Jesus declares that the law of Moses permitted divorce (Dt 24:1) only because of the hardness of your hearts (Mk 10:4–5). In citing Gn 1:27 and 2:24 Jesus proclaims permanence to be the divine intent from the beginning concerning human marriage (Mk 10:6–8). He reaffirms this with the declaration that what God has joined together, no human being must separate (Mk 10:9). See further the notes on Mt 5:31–32; 19:3–9.

\* [10:15] Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child: i.e., in total dependence upon and obedience to the gospel; cf. Mt 18:3–4.

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In the home and Church environment you grew up in, did you get the message that women were equal to men? Or did you receive subtle or not-so-subtle hints that men were more important or superior to women?
2. When you personally experience “hardness of heart,” what are you feeling? What helps you most to move past the “hardness of heart” feeling?
3. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about marriage, divorce and remarriage.

What can our Church or parish do to: • strengthen marriages? • bring comfort and consolation to the divorced? • show mercy to divorced Catholics who have remarried outside the Church?

4. If both husband and wife are committed disciples of Jesus, divorce will never occur. Agree? Disagree? Why?

## **Commentary**

This is Mark's fifth lesson on discipleship focusing on the "hardness of heart" which prevents two disciples from remaining married. The Pharisees are asking Jesus a question on whether it is permissible for a man to divorce his wife. They want to see if Jesus will contradict Moses' "pastoral solution." As a concession to human weakness and sin (another word for "hardness of heart"), Moses permitted the Israelites to divorce (Deut. 24:1-4). But then Jesus points the Pharisees back to God's original intention for marriage, namely, that two people, especially two disciples, shall remain married until death do them part: "What God has joined together, no human being must separate." By teaching this, Jesus is raising the status of women as equal to men. In Jewish ancient law, women were always the victim since they could not ask for a divorce, whereas men could seek a divorce for the smallest of reasons. In the Kingdom that Jesus is inaugurating, men and women are to be treated as equal and they are to treat each other as partners. This is a very radical new teaching in Jesus' time. In Mark's Gospel, no exception to Jesus' teaching is mentioned. However, by the time Matthew's Gospel is written, the church evidently has begun to make some exceptions (see Matt 19:9). In verses 13-16, Jesus also seeks to raise the status of children in a society in which they too have no legal rights. Jesus tells his listeners that children, like women, must be treated with dignity and respect, and that their religious training is to be taken seriously. Secondly, children's attitude of openness and receptivity to Jesus is held up as something to be emulated by adults. (As Jesus spoke these words, one must have heard the "Wow!" Afterwards, down at the pub or coffee shop, the conversation must have been very interesting as the folks buzzed about what Jesus had said about marriage, divorce, women and children.)

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

## CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom  
Wednesday, Oct 2 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Oct 2, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618  
Passcode: 280607