

his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Mark 10:2-16 (ESV)

10 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.” 13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

COMMENT: Jesus voiced his profound concern for stable family life and for children. In Roman society, marriage had one purpose – to provide a legal heir who would inherit a man’s property. In Jewish society, men could divorce their wives for any reason, or even at a whim. Wives had no such

right without their husband’s consent. In verses 10-12, Jesus put women on an equal footing. The setting of the two subjects in sequence is surely not by chance. It is fully evident in our day as in Jesus’ time that women and children suffer most when love dies and marriages are dissolved by divorce. Modern society is moving inexorably to separate what is meant by civil and religious marriage. A clear distinction can be drawn between a civil contract and a sacred covenant made as an act of worship in which God participates.

Post Communion: We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

The Blessing: God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Benefice Prayer list:

Margaret Morrissey,
Pat Bailey (Melcombe)
Julia (Piddletrenthide)
Ann Lambert,
Reg Hanbury,
June Kellaway,
Robin Saunders.

Those in care homes:

Roger Gray (Dorchester)
June Smith (Warminster).

Holy Matrimony



Edward and Katherine – 9/10/21,
St George’s – Dorchester

