

Sermon Notes – March 15, 2015
“The Cure for Hard Hearts”
Mark 10:1-12
Pastor Bill Hoffman

Divorce is a painful reality. Regardless of your view on whether divorce is sometimes justified,

- What are some ways in which divorce hurts people?

Other Scripture passages related to divorce: Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Malachi 2:11-16, Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:13-15.

Key background for the Pharisees’ question of Jesus:

- Different rabbinical interpretations of Deuteronomy 24:1-4.
- King Herod having divorced his wife to marry his brother’s wife, who had divorced her husband.
- Consider these background factors to get an idea of the nature of the “trap” the Pharisees are trying to spring on Jesus.

To what Scripture and what reality does Jesus appeal in answering the Pharisees?

- Psalm 51:10-12.
- Hebrews 10:22. David, Israel’s greatest king, and “a man after God’s heart”, prays Psalm 51 in the aftermath of having married Bathsheba after having her husband killed as an attempt to cover up his adultery.
- What does this passage, in combinations with Hebrews 10:19-23, suggest about how hard, broken, or sinful hearts can be healed and restored?

How is this good news for:

- Those who are struggling in their marriages?
- Those living in the wake of divorce?
- Those who have not experienced divorce or extreme tensions in their marriages, but whose hardness of heart has been manifest in other ways?