

Mark 10:1-12

25th January 2009

Amidst the feverish anticipation of the kingdom of God, a homily on marriage seems decidedly out of place. Christ has arrived to put the whole world right . . . who cares about marriage? According to our passage, Christ does!

That's because marriage, long the fundamental unit of society, is now a galvanizing force in the kingdom of God. The new reign of Jesus Christ manifests itself, with particular impact, in marriage – and its impact is felt round the world!

Read the passage, examining it especially in terms of the kingdom of God, and answer the following questions.

- 1) How does the topic of marriage relate to the prior teaching of Jesus? Look, in particular, at Mark 9:50.

- 2) Why do the Pharisees quiz Jesus about divorce? (verse 2) How does Jesus expand their enquiry into a much broader question about God's intentions for creation?

- 3) According to verse 8, what is the grand design of marriage? Hint: give careful attention to the tantalizingly term 'one flesh'.

- 4) How does the work of God in marriage – joining two people together – relate to his work in the world at large?

- 5) In terms of the kingdom of God, what is wrong with adultery? See verse 11.

- 6) What sort of union between a husband and a wife most glorifies God? Do you see many such unions? Explain.