

A. Instructions on marriage. Mark 10:1-12.

- ❖ The Pharisees asked Jesus whether it was legal for a husband to divorce (put away) his wife (Mark 10:2). They did it “to tempt him.” What was the trap?
- ❖ John had been beheaded for accusing Herod of divorcing his wife to marry his brother's wife (Mt. 14:3-4). They wanted, therefore, to bias Herod against Jesus.
- ❖ The text that supported the Pharisees' demand allowed the husband to divorce his wife for “some indecent thing.” But it also protected the woman, saying that this “defiled” her, and was an “abomination” to God (Deut. 24:1-4; Mark 10:5).
- ❖ Rabbi Hillel's followers went so far as to allow divorce for almost any reason. However, Jesus clarified that, from the beginning, God created man and woman to be united in an unbreakable bond that only adultery could break (Mark 10:6-12).

B. Instructions on childhood. Mark 10:13-16.

- ❖ The disciples thought that Jesus' time was too valuable to waste caring for children. But Jesus was outraged by the attitude of his disciples (Mark 10:13-14).
- ❖ Children are important to Jesus. «Jesus is attracting the children and commands us: “When Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him.” It is as if he were telling us: as if He would say, they will come if you do not hinder them» (EGW. DTG - Chapter56, Pg. 476).
- ❖ How does a child receive a gift when it is offered? (Mark 10:15).
- ❖ There is no question of whether the children deserve it, or if they have to pay for it. They simply extend their arms and take it with a big smile. Thus, we must accept the great gift of the kingdom of God.

C. Instructions on priorities. Mark 10:17-31.

- ❖ A rich young man ran to Jesus to ask for instructions on how to obtain eternal life (Mark 10:17).
- ❖ Jesus loved this young man who, sincerely, believed he was obeying all the commandments. However, He encouraged him to save the first one of all. He had made a god of his riches. He had to abandon that god, and completely follow Jesus (Mark 10:21).
- ❖ The important thing here is that the Kingdom of God occupies the highest place in the human heart, above loyalty to any earthly kingdom. Therefore, Jesus emphasizes the lordship of God over our lives.
- ❖ Let's be clear about our priorities. If our priority is God, He will give us eternal life. “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27).

D. Instructions on leadership. Mark 10:32-45.

- ❖ James and John wanted to make sure they would be close to their Lord when He reigned (Mark 10:35-37).
- ❖ Is incredible! Jesus had just said that he would be betrayed, condemned, mocked, scourged, spit upon, and killed (Mark 10:32-34). Hadn't Zebedee's sons understood anything?
- ❖ At their request, Jesus reminded them of the cost of discipleship: they would have to suffer like their Lord (Mark 10:38-39).
- ❖ In the Kingdom of God, power must always be used to uplift and bless others. Service is the standard of the leader (Mark 10:42-44). He who wants to be great in the Kingdom must imitate his King (Mark 10:45).

E. Instructions on His mission. Mark 10:46-52.

- ❖ Bartimaeus cries out and shouts to be heard above those who want to silence him (Mark 10:46-48).
- ❖ When they told him “Cheer up! On your feet! He is calling you” (Mark 10:49), he got up quickly. He left behind everything he had – his cloak – with the assurance that Jesus would heal him (Mark 10:50). And Jesus never rejects those who come to Him.
- ❖ Once healed, he followed Jesus (Mark 10:52). However, he already believed in Jesus before he was healed. He saw in Him the Messiah, the King of Israel (Mark 10:47).
- ❖ Until then, Jesus had silenced all those who wanted to confess him as the Messiah, or expressed their intention to make him King. But he did not act like that with Bartimaeus.
- ❖ From now on, Jesus allows himself to be openly declared Messiah. His time has come. His mission is about to conclude.