

## **Sermon Based Small Group: Mark 10:1-12**

### **“TOUGHTALKS: Marriage: Play to Win... and not to Lose**

#### **Introduction**

- What is your favourite thing to do with your spouse?
- Have you ever been caught in a no-win situation? How did you respond?

#### **Reviewing the Teaching**

- Read Mark 9:10:1-12
- What stood out to you from this teaching and/or from Mel's message?
  - Why did it stand out?
  - How does it relate to you in your life situation now?
- When the Pharisees focus on divorce, what does Jesus focus on (Marriage)? How does he change the conversation?
- How does marriage represent the Gospel?
- Read Mark 8:34 and 9:35, how does this set us up to treat our spouse?

#### **Digging Deeper**

- Jesus had switched over the Jordan to the land of Herod where the Pharisees believe they had an ally in trapping Jesus. Read Matthew 14:1-12 to discover why that may be so. Discuss.
  - John the Baptist had already confronted Herod about divorce. Why do you think he would now be willing to help the Pharisees?
- Gary Thomas writes “what if marriage is more about our holiness than our happiness?” What does that look like in our relationship?
  - What would it look like if we fought *for* our relationship rather than against them?
- Pastor Mel made the comment “Chemistry is not a good judge of character” and “Chemistry sees what it *wants* to see”. Why is this a problem in choosing a spouse?

#### **Applying it to Life**

- What can you and your spouse dream about together?
- How can you leverage a current situation for something better?
- Read Php. 1:9-11 – how would you apply that to marriage?
- When Mel and LaDonna were talking together they mentioned five categories and how each category on the right should never be higher than the one on the left:

##### **Know | Trust | Rely | Commit | Touch**

- What makes each of these so important?
- Why do you think “Touch” is last on the list?
- How are you and your spouse helping one another become better people?
- Are you and your spouse empowering one another?

