



Introduction

What will it look like when God becomes King? Will the same attitudes of cynicism, bitterness, and distrust still rule and stain our hearts? Or will his kingdom be so great that our hearts are freed from the attitudes that harden them? Mark wants us to see that Jesus' kingdom will transform lives by healing us from the inside out. This transforming work of Jesus' kingdom begins with our hardened hearts. When God becomes King, hearts are truly changed.

Observation/Interpretation

- Read Mark 10:1-2. Divorce and remarriage is as controversial an issue for believers today as it was in Jesus' day. In Mark 6, we're told that John the baptizer was put to death because of his remarks against Herod's marital status. What do you think the Pharisees were hoping to accomplish by putting Jesus on the spot and asking him about divorce?
- According to Mark 10:3, how does Jesus deal with this trap?
- Jesus, as was common, did not deal with the problematic moral issues of the day by legislating stricter rules to uphold them. Rather he addresses the underlying (and often unseen) problems that threaten to undo his original purposes (see Mark 10:6-9). According to Mark 10:5 what was the "real problem" behind the problem of divorce?

Application

- Unlike us, Jesus was not one to callously point out problems without providing solutions. According to Jesus, the problem within failed marriages/divorce (and subsequently all social ills & dysfunction) stems from one or both people having a hardened heart. The good news (Gospel) that Mark is writing about is that when God becomes King he'll initiate His reign by healing hardened hearts. What are some of the areas in yourself you see "hardness of heart" that Jesus will want to bring healing to?

Prayer

- Pray that God will heal your heart by softening it with his love.
- Pray for others you know who are under the oppressive/destructive reign of a hardened heart.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.