

other is totally unacceptable to say the least.

There is no worse feeling than rejection. The feelings of rejection, worthlessness, unwanted, insecurity, depression and so forth, lead to hurt and withdrawal. They are not very nice feelings to be carrying around all the time. So many people get depressed and suicidal. When faced with these harsh realities, we know in our hearts the innocence is gone forever. But we know that people are worth much more than that. God believes so; he gave his beloved Son for us! He gives us back our self esteem and worth, because if all else fails in our lives, God will love us forever; he won't leave or forsake us.

Jesus says in v 14, 'for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' in regards to the

children. And, "to receive the kingdom of God," is to submit to the authority of God's rule. And to submit to God, is to do so with a willing spirit and heart. The same goes for those who are married and still in love with each other; they willingly submit to each other without any conditions put on them at all. For this reason the person who wishes to receive the kingdom must receive it "as a child does," that is, without any reservations about themselves at all.

Just to wrap up, marriage is God created and those who are still enjoying a lifelong marriage are also enjoying a lifetime dream of being with the one they chose to be with. Commitment and fidelity is still alive today, and with God's blessing of the marriage, there is no reason that two people, man and woman, can't co-exist until death to them

depart.

As we heard, Jesus definitely states the seriousness about being faithful, and if those who make a commitment to be faithful to God and in their marriage vows, show the world that God's statutes are worthy and blessed. Amen.

DIVORCE—LITTLE CHILDREN

TEXT: MARK 10: 2-16

.Jesus taught his disciples that they were chosen to be in God's service as in a marriage to be faithful to hi and to each other; and to never stray from that commitment.

Today the theme of the message is about marriage and fidelity. So, as a thought starter to this theme, I want you to *carefully* ponder this question: 'what do you think marriage is all about, these days?' I ask this question because marriage seems to have different connotations attached to it these days. At times it seems disposable, if it doesn't work out. A bit different from times gone past where once married, the couple made a go of it together. These days, the laws of the land make plenty of escape clauses for any situation that arises in a marriage. What happened to talking problems through and working it out together?

But in our marriage discussion, is marriage the beginning of a lifetime together of happy relationship, children, and a journey to overcome the adversity of all of what life throws at you? These days marriage may mean co-existing together, double income, and no kids [acronym; DINKS], and being quite comfortable with this arrangement.

Otherwise in the real world, you may be living in the ideal marriage right now, and are being envied for doing so! Perhaps you may get the odd nasty comment of 'how can you stay together for so long, without tiring of each other!' but they obviously don't know what being with the one you want to be with, means. And if you are in the ideal situation now, I bet a lot of people would be asking you, what is the 'secret' to staying together and enjoying each other's company?

Now let's contrast the

lasting relationship to those whose marriages didn't work out and ended in divorce, which can happen because of a plethora of reasons and circumstances beyond people's control, so, lets just look at the realities [I'm not pointing the finger at anyone].

After all, marriage is a subject that needs to be spoken about because in this day and age, the marriage/divorce ratio is approx 40%. So if anyone is intending to get married in the near future [barring accidents, sickness, disasters, abuse, etc], be aware of how you're going to remain in your marriage, forever. The ideal marriage should last forever, and should not last for the average length of time which is said to be twelve and a half years.

I looked up the divorce statistics [My Divorce.com.au] in



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Australia, and found that behaving badly with their implications in some every third marriage ends mate's wives. What do people's motivation. So, in divorce. For those who you think about the rich in this day and age, is have set out to be married and famous in marriage treated as the to their desired one, [in Hollywood? With all the ideal that God created? most circumstances, apart gossip and carryings on For when one perceives it from the abusive and infidelity that's going from a biblical aspect, situations where divorce on in that place? You're marriage is a deadly is sought] no married always reading about serious business, because person truly wanted their someone's love life God created the marriages to end in breaking up and no sooner foundation himself, Jesus divorce; or to be married a than you catch your says in v9, 'what God has second, even a third time breath; you read that joined together, let not around [after the second, they've gone straight into man separate'. forget it!]

the arms of someone else.

Most of us, watch the news bulletins each evening so that we keep up with what is happening in the world; and sometimes when you are watching it, By the way, what are you casual about some other the headlines can grab thought's on same-sex laws, whereby they your attention when marriages, gay mardi thought he would take a someone high profile gets gra's, gigolo's [kept stronger stance on, like; caught with their pants men], cougars [older i.e. cleanliness rules down in public so to women chasing younger [eating without first speak.. In particular when men], etc, etc, it's all out washing], his eating and the headlines is about the there. This is why Jesus drinking with sinners, or then US president, Bill had something to say to his healings on a Sabbath. Clinton, playing up with the Pharisees of the day

marriage.

Monica Lewinsky, or very on the issue of marriage. Jesus is so stringent about recently in Australia; the this law because divorce ALP politician John Della In our gospel lesson and remarriage are never Bosca [wife Belinda Neal today, Jesus is tested by right in God's sight. Jesus - Iguanagate fame] some Pharisees [v2] who reasons that all of God's having an affair with a came up and tested him people are living temples, young woman old enough with a question in regards and they are a holy nation. to be his daughter. to the legality of a man Christians are taught to divorcing his wife. In the think of themselves as a

You also hear and read introduction, it seems that spiritual temple. As we about footballers marriage has different are all aware, God's home

in us is in our hearts. He more people who were In the marriage situation, lives within our hearts! regular worshippers are why do devoted loving not showing up any more. couples suddenly go cold

In the same way; the So we're left wondering on each other after so disciples whom Jesus had what has happened to many blissful years chosen to be his them, and why have together? What has followers, are likewise stopped coming to stopped that spark from consecrated to the service worship altogether. igniting their love for of God. Similarly a man Someone's absence each other? Have they and a woman choose each makes a difference, you suddenly realised that the other to be consecrated know! We all feel it. loved one they married and faithful in love to didn't turn out to be the each other for all time. Our minds could assume dream person they or wonder if they weren't thought they would be?

So what we have is two offended in any way, or Perhaps the ideal person things happening turned out to have parallel to each other: some disgusting in regards to love and habits and now they devotion. As God's want to trade them in chosen people we as they do not serve give our love, service the purpose they and devotion to him intended.

through Christ who makes they tired of coming it so. In our earthly lives, together, they got tired of Are we living in a we show and give our hearing the same thing, disposable society today? allegiance, love and seeing the same people, If it doesn't come up to devotion to the one we being obligated to do the scratch, trade it in or get same tasks, etc., but rid of it. In regards to the somehow the focus was Pharisees query and

God created marriage to last forever.

That's the easy bit; but shifted from the heavenly Jesus' meticulous answer, what happens along the focus above to the eye men in those days wanted way, temptation is always level below. What are to trade in the wives for knocking at the door, then people's motives and someone different as well! what happens when ti what were they missing So what's new? Well, takes sway? out in their lives that what's not so new is the wasn't fulfilling? When way we treat each other, Take for instance the we look at ourselves and when we deal with good strong Christian, our ego's take over, soon people's feelings, we need who has given many years everything will revolve to be careful how we treat of service, love and around 'me' and not on each other. Some of the devotion to the church others. We become vain things we see and hear who suddenly stops and lose our focus. about on the media of going. Then suddenly how people treat each