

27th Sun OT – Mark 10:2-16

According to Deuteronomy, divorce was permitted. The only difficulty for most interpreters were the grounds required. Teachers like Shimmel were very strict, while others like Hillel were astonishingly lax. In his reply, Jesus sided with neither. He prohibited divorce altogether, arguing not from Mosaic legislation but from the original plan of God, when God created man from woman and made her his helpmate.

Here Jesus defended the woman who had no rights according to the laws of the time and he forbade his critics to play loose with an institution that belonged to God's original creation. Such teaching was risky for Jesus as he travelled through the territories of the much divorced King Herod.

Matthew's Gospel was to allow divorce on the grounds of unchastity. Paul permitted a believer to separate from an unbeliever. Neither allowed divorce for the hardness of heart which Jesus condemned.