

Bible readings continue

Genesis 2:18-24

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” **19** So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man^[a] to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. **20** He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs^[b] and closed up the opening. **22** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called ‘woman,’

because she was taken from ‘man.’”

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Mark 10:2-16

2 Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?”

3 Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”

4 “Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”

5 But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts. **6** But ‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation. **7** ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, **8** and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, **9** let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

10 Later, when he was alone with his disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again. **11** He told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her.

12 And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery.”

Jesus Blesses the Children

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

14 When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. **15** I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” **16** Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.