

ML203.5 God's Antidote for Divorce

The Bible divides into a lengthy series of short stories. The ten parts of "the Foundation of the World" [Ge 1:1-31] form a pattern that divides each story into ten parts. Days 3, 6 and 7 have two parts each. [This accounts for the divisions within each of these days.] The "D" next to each part of this story represents the word "Day" in Genesis.

The ten parts of every story divide and then combine into three larger parts. Days 1-3b form the first part called the Kingdom of Heaven [KH]; Days 4-6b form the second part called the Kingdom of God [KG], and Days 7a and 7b form the third part. These last two parts work partly as markers to show where one story ends and the next story begins.

You've heard this rule: "Never take a scripture out of its text!" However, you may not have heard a rule that identifies the beginning and ending of a text. This is it: "The beginning and ending of a text is the same as the beginning and ending of its ten-part story."

After learning how to use the 7a/7b markers, you become confident that your margins are correct. Then you know that all ten parts of any story form one text. At this point you know to interpret each verse within the margins [beginning and ending] of its story.

Little children can spat about something one minute and return to being buddies the next.

The scriptures in this story work together to teach couples how to stay married. Jesus explains why the law allowed men to divorce their wives. He explained that the law allowed divorce because of the hardness of men's hearts. Then He explained how this wasn't God's plan in the beginning, that God intended for the man and woman to join and become one flesh. He ended his talk with the Pharisees by saying that man should not put apart what God had joined [10:9].

Here the story shifts from the Kingdom of Heaven to the Kingdom of God. In D4-D5, Jesus explains how putting away a spouse causes adultery.

Then, in D6a, Jesus seems to change the subject. He doesn't, however, because V13 is part of the story. Christ's audience is still His disciples, but little children have become part of the story. It displeased Him when His disciples opposed those bringing little children to Him.

The Divorce Antidote	
D 1	Mr 10:1 And he arose from thence, & cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: & the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.
D 2	Mr 10:2 And the Pharisees came to him, & asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 10:3 And he answered & said unto them, What did Moses command you? 10:4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, & to put her away.
D 3 a	Mr 10:5 And Jesus answered & said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male & female.
D 3 b	Mr 10:7 For this cause shall a man leave his father & mother, & cleave to his wife; 10:8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
D 4	Mr 10:10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.
D 5	Mr 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, & marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, & be married to another, she committeth adultery.
D 6 a	Mr 10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: & his disciples rebuked those that brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, & said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, & forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
D 6 b	10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.
7 a	Mr 10:16 And he took them up in his arms,
7 b	Mr 10:16 put his hands upon them, & blessed them.

Thus, the antidote for divorce is to adopt the attitude of little children.