

Title: GOD RULES OUR BEHAVIOR, MARK 10:2-16
(Chatham, NJ; 10/07/12, AM) [D – Two-Point Outline]

Theme: Jesus' justification for sustaining the marriage bond demonstrates that the created order plays a role in defining morality and that Jesus has the authority because he played a role in creation.

Purpose: To demonstrate that Jesus has the authority to rule our morality and to encourage us to maintain our loyalty to his moral statutes.

Introduction:

1. Morality is not just a socially constructed set of rules; morality comes from a higher authority than man or collectively man's society.
2. Moral rules come from God and are built into the framework of creation. In essence God's morality is reality.
3. George Washington Carver relied on God to help him understand nature, in particular, the peanut. He understood God's sovereignty over creation.
4. With the same humility we must accept God's rule over our moral lives.
5. Jesus is designated as Lord for a reason.

I. The Sovereignty of Christ

A. God: creator and sustainer of life

1. God creates and provides for man in Genesis 2
2. Job challenges God's understanding when he endures suffering from God's hand
3. God challenges Job over a great beast (Job 41:1-11, see details)
4. Leviathan – whale, crocodile; mythically – crooked serpent, seven-headed (near eastern literature), also in Is. 27:1, Ps. 74:14, 104:26, Job 3:8
5. God versus Leviathan – "Job, can you do this?"
6. Anyway you look at this, Job is asked to say whether he can handle this beast with quite the same ease as God
7. The behemoth is mentioned in 40:15-24, and Rahab is another mythological monster in Job 26:12

B. Christ's rule and power

1. Alluded to in Psalm 8
2. Clarified in Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:5-12
3. Established above all else in Ephesians 1:20-22
4. That the world rebels against this provides a warning in Psalm 2

II. Sovereign over behavior

A. The created order justifies marriage

1. Genesis 2:18-24 establishes the relationship between man and woman
2. When Jesus is asked about marriage, he turns to the creation account to demonstrate the validity of his position
3. Marriage was created by God and cannot be tampered with in any way
4. It is built into the very fabric of reality

B. Moral precepts are founded on creation, the creator, and Christ's role in it

1. Colossians 1:16 – by him all things were made (also in John 1:1-4)
2. By the time you get to Colossians 3:1-2 we see Jesus seated back in heaven (also see 1 Peter 3:22)
3. This is not to establish our thinking on a higher plane, but also to demonstrate Christ's authority over all things moral
4. Chapters 3 & 4 list many of the moral precepts

5. Fleshly behavior condemned (5-10)
6. Spiritual behavior prescribed (12-17)
7. Advice to wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, and masters (18-4:1)

Conclusion:

1. If Jesus is Messiah, he is also Lord.
2. Because through him the world was created, he has the right to pronounce marriage as the union between one man and one woman in Mark 10.
3. He also has the right to determine all of human behavior; he created us; he created the rules.
4. This is the Jesus you accept when you obey the Gospel.
5. We urge you to do so today.