



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

October 3, 2021

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 140

Gospel Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. *For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Spiritual Reflection: Often the attitude we carry with us affects us more than the truth of a situation. Abraham Lincoln put it this way: "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." A person who complains about thorns will have a different answer to questions about roses than the one who is grateful for the blossoms. Maybe the reason why the world and the Church differs so much on Sex and Marriage issues is because the Church sees the truly Good News about sex and the world only focuses on one aspect of it. John Paul II in his writings blows the world away with his insights into sex in his writings that we now call "Theology of the Body".

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does having a negative attitude affect your faith?
2. How does having a negative attitude affect your relationships with others?
3. What can you do to make sure you have a positive attitude?
4. How are you doing with making your family a domestic Church?
5. Does your family know that you love them?