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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Law vs. Love

Mark 10:1-16

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 10:1–16 (NIV) — **1** Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. **2** Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" **3** "What did Moses command you?" he replied. **4** They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." **5** "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. **6** "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' **7** 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, **8** and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. **9** Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." **10** When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. **11** He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. **12** And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." **13** People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. **14** When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15** Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." **16** And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we dive into the responsibilities of costly love, rather than cling to the edge of legal concessions.

Two Questions...

- ❖ The question of Law is: "What does the Law say?"
 - Implication: "How much can I get away with?"

- ❖ The question of Love is: "What does Love require?"
 - Implication: "What is best for my neighbor?"

Luke 10:36–37 (NIV) — **36** "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" **37** The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (See also Luke 10:25-37)

Two Principles

- ❖ Love prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.

Matthew 18:10–14 (NIV) — **10** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. **11 12** "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. **14** In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (See also 4:1-30; James 1:27)

- ❖ We encounter God's love by recognizing our own vulnerability.

Matthew 5:2–3 (NIV) — **2** and he began to teach them. He said: **3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.