

A person with long dark hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands with their back to the camera on a mountain trail. They are wearing a bright yellow backpack. The background features rolling mountains under a soft, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# sabbatical

rest | refresh | refocus

BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E
0	1	2	
GUEST		HOME	
2	5	4	
INNING			

305









MARK

2-FOLD  
HEALING

"MESSIAH"

WHO AM  
I?

SHOCK +  
AWE

WHAT DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

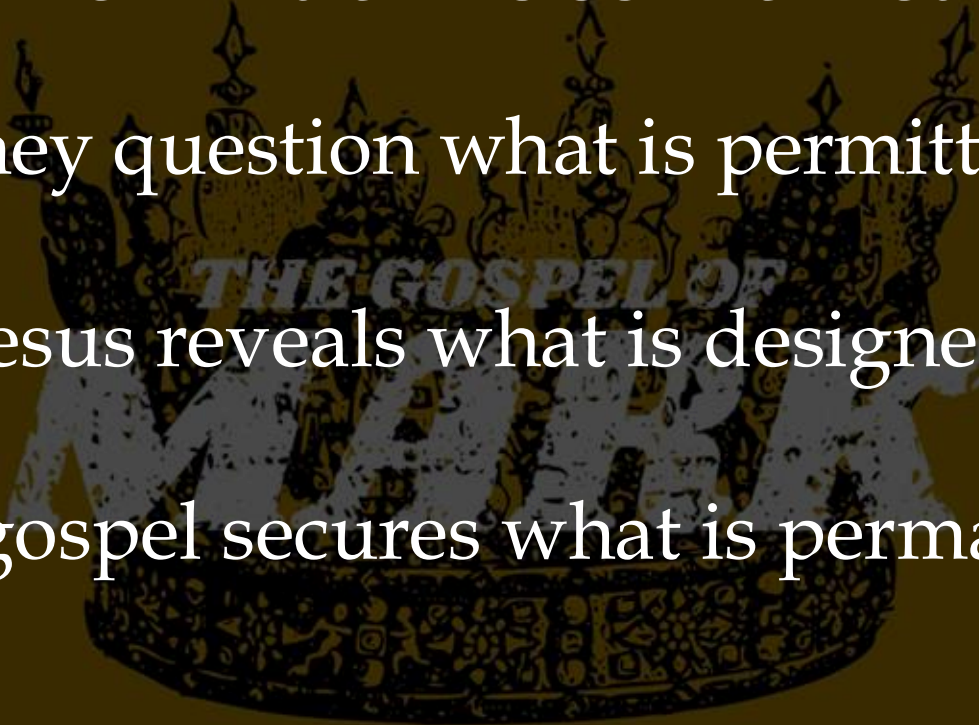
SUFFER +  
DIE :: TWIST

# Love That Doesn't Leave

They question what is permitted

Jesus reveals what is designed

The gospel secures what is permanent

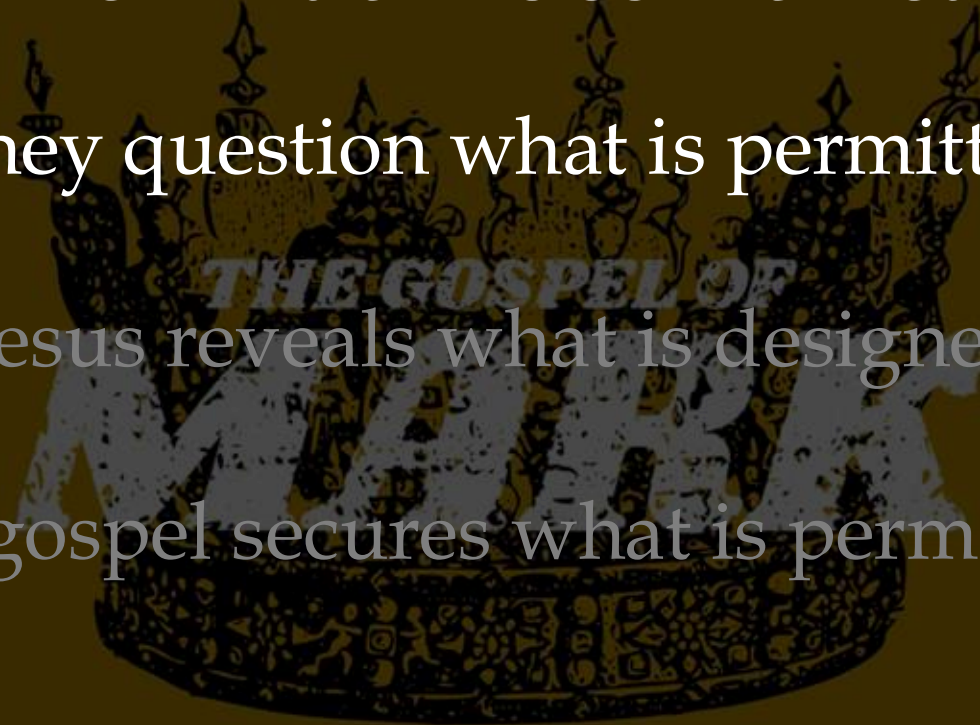


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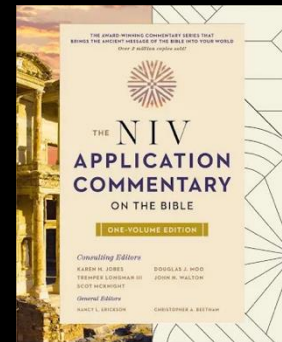
## They question what is permitted

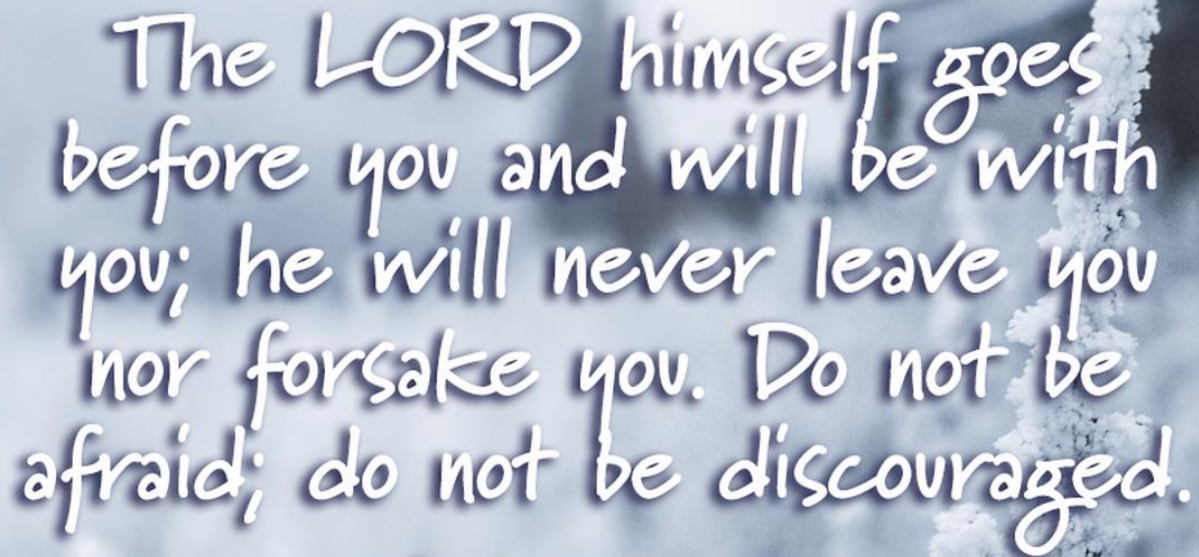
### Mark 10:1-5

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup> “What did Moses command you?” he replied. <sup>4</sup> They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” <sup>5</sup> “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied.

They come at the law asking, “What does it allow me to do?” or, to put it more bluntly, “What can I get away with?” This preoccupation with legal subtleties ultimately neglects God’s will, which is primarily concerned with love for the neighbor (12:31). They are interested in their rights, not their responsibilities, and pursue legal exoneration for a behavior no matter how it might affect another person. They ask only about the husband’s right to divorce and pay no attention to the needs of the wife – what it does to her or to children, whether she has any right to object to a divorce. Jesus’ question uncovers their sinful hearts hidden behind the mask of legal rectitude.

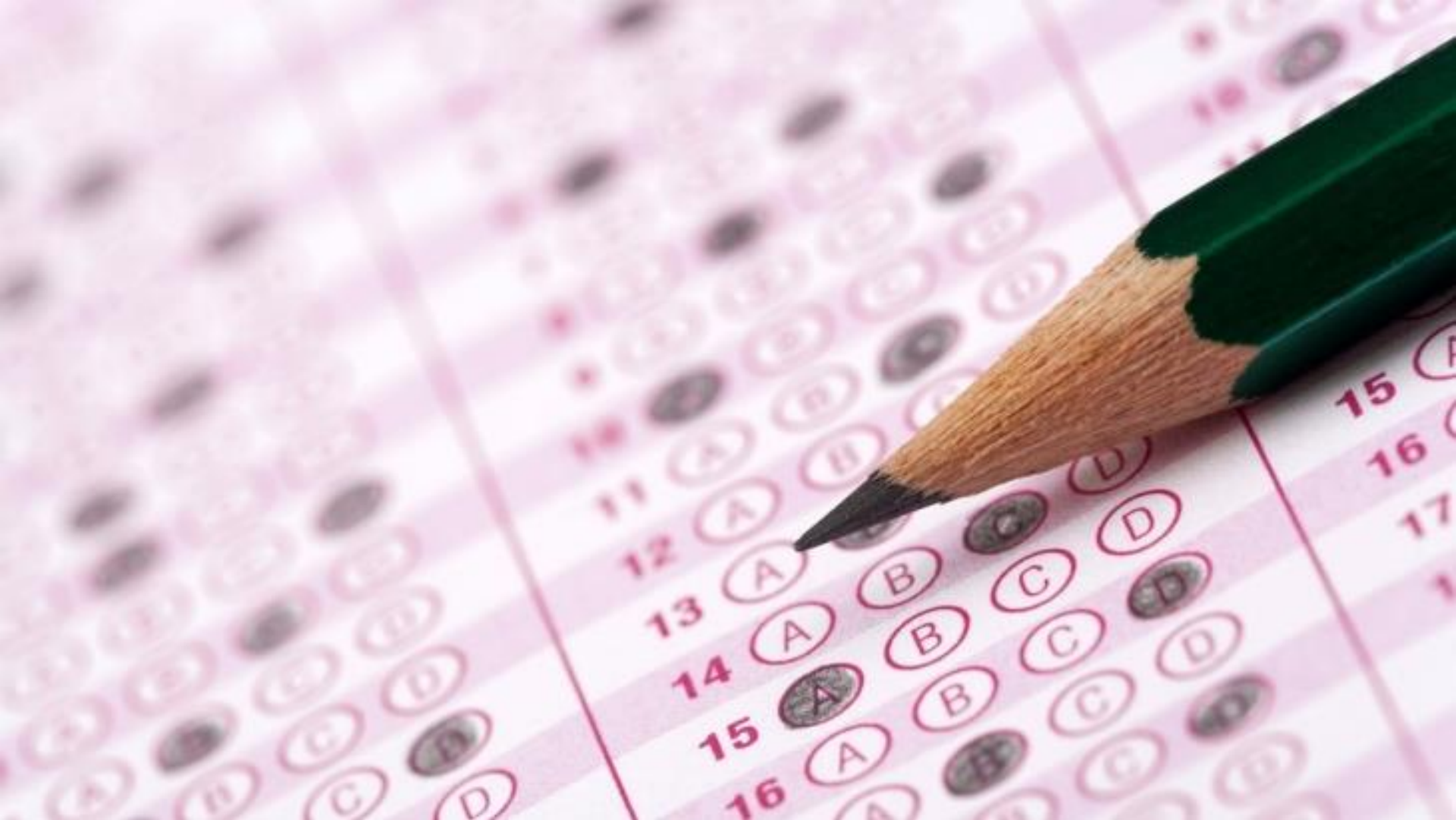
David E. Garland, *Mark*, The NIV Application Commentary.  
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996).





The LORD himself goes  
before you and will be with  
you; he will never leave you  
nor forsake you. Do not be  
afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8



11

12

13

14

15

16

(A)

(A)

(A)

(A)

(A)

(B)

(B)

(B)

(B)

(A)

(C)

(C)

(C)

(C)

(B)

(D)

(D)

(D)

(D)

(C)

15

16

17

1

(A)

(B)

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## Matthew 1:18–19

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



The Force is unusually strong with him.  
That much is clear.



There was no father.



Who was his father?



I carried him, I gave birth,  
I raised him.

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## Jesus reveals what is designed

### Mark 10:6–9

<sup>6</sup> “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”



Husband

Wife

CHRIST

CHURCH



Husband

Wife

## Ephesians 5:32–33

<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.

<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## Ephesians 5:22–31 (Cor's paraphrase)

Church, submit yourselves to the Lord. For Christ is the husband and the Church is his bride for whom he died.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and presenting her to himself as a radiant bride, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. He feeds and cares for his bride. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” in order to be a tangible picture of God's relationship with his Church.

Moses appeared and with deft hand sketched a picture of groom and bride but immediately drew a veil over it. In his book he wrote that a man should leave father and mother so as to be joined to his wife, that the two might in very truth become one. The prophet Moses spoke of man and woman in this way *in order to foretell Christ and his church* (emphasis added).

~Jacob of Sarug, poet and theologian  
aka “Flute of the Holy Spirit”

Thomas C. Oden and Christopher A. Hall, eds., *Mark (Revised)*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 128.



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## The gospel secures what is permanent

### Mark 10:10-12

<sup>10</sup> When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. <sup>11</sup> He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

CHRIST

CHURCH



Husband

Wife

## 2 Timothy 2:11-13

<sup>11</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

What husband but our Lord ever died for his wife, and what bride ever chose a crucified man as her husband? Who ever gave his blood as a gift to his wife except the one who died on the cross and sealed the marriage bond with his wounds? Who was ever seen lying dead at his own wedding banquet?...At what other celebration...is the groom's body distributed to the guests in the form of bread? Death separates wives from their husbands, but in this case it is death that unites the bride to her beloved.

Thomas C. Oden and Christopher A. Hall, eds., *Mark (Revised)*, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 128.



# Gospel Reflection

Where are you looking for security or escape  
outside of Jesus?

# Gospel Reflection

Where are you looking for security or escape  
outside of Jesus?

If Jesus is the one who never walks away,  
even at the cost of his own life, what is keeping you  
from trusting him with your life today?