



Oct. 7, 2018 Mk. 10:2-16 & Gn. 2: 18-24

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Stone, Naomi. [The Heart of the Beloved](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [The Struggle to Trust](#)

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### SETTING THE SCENE:

On and on we go, with more challenges, more questions. Not only does it not stop, it gets even more intense. The Pharisees now see that Jesus is undermining all their teachings and understandings of who God is and how God wants to relate to humanity, and humanity to relate to each other. It is a sort of evil possession in the way that the power structure clings to their hard-heartedness. Their way to God was mean and small. Jesus' open-heartedness reveals God's heart to those who were able to receive it. It's no wonder that he once again uses the vulnerability and openness to the new of a child to make his point.

### Mk. 10:2-16

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. 9 Therefore what God has **joined** together, let man not **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 to have him touch 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 I tell you the truth, 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, put his hands on them and **blessed** them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Jesus identifies the source of our problems as a "hard heart". He contrasts that with the heart of a child. How "soft" is your heart these days?

**PRAYER:** Open hearted Jesus, you once again meet with people who want to use their small version of God to control others. They want power over others and want God to back them up. You want power with others and back them down. You reveal that all whom God creates are loved by God. Help me relax into your understanding of God so that my heart will be open and warm. Amen