

James 5: 9-12

Mark 10: 1-12.

“Remember it was those who had endurance that we say are the blessed ones.”

“Above all, my brothers, do not swear by heaven or by the earth, or use any oaths at all. If you mean ‘yes,’ you must say yes’; If you mean ‘no,’ you must say ‘no’ ; Otherwise you make yourselves liable to judgement.” These two passages from James are linked with the words of Jesus in today's Gospel where he talks about marriage.

Some Pharisees are trying to test Jesus as to his position regarding divorce. He makes special reference to the man who, in those days, had the power of the law on his side. So, he replies, “From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man (and woman) must leave father and mother and the two become one body.” In line with today's wedding vows, Jesus added, “So then, what God has united, man must not divide.”

Married couples experience many blessings when they pronounce their wedding vows and then, with God's help and together, seek endurance in their relationship. When they marry, their ‘Yes,’ is to mean ‘Yes.’ They promise to work through any difficulties that they may encounter and always to seek to love more fully as they strive towards the unity that God intends for them. For those who falter in living out their ‘Yes,’ and who experience the disunity that results, there remains the possibility of judgement. A judgement that only God can make.