

Tragedy of Divorce Seventh Week in Ordinary Time Friday, February 24, 2017
8:15 AM Sir 6:5-17; **Mk 10:1-12** (When people come together sexually they become one in a way that actually affects their bodies and their minds and their souls and their spirits.)

“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 his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”

Now what Jesus is talking about here is actually a psychological truth. **When people come together sexually they become one in a way that actually affects their bodies and their minds and their souls and their spirits.** That is why promiscuity is so damaging to the human psyche, to the human soul, because there is all this coming together and breaking apart and coming together and breaking apart; and it wears down the soul itself. So this is really not about the legality of marriage, what makes marriage legal or illegal or valid or invalid. This is rather about the spiritual reality of sexuality itself and its purpose in the sight of God to unite. And **when people are united, breaking apart is very painful.**

I’m sure if you have not yourself experienced divorce, you have known people who have experienced divorce and it is painful. And for this reason **it is very important that we all have compassion for people who suffer this great pain, which is a loss.** It is an injury and it is something that **Jesus is encouraging people not to engage in, but people are also frail and this sort of thing does happen.** People’s lives do suffer ship wreck and it’s a great tragedy.

Now the purpose of this teaching is to **help people direct their lives away from tragedy, toward healing and wholeness and salvation.** And community, **the Church needs to support all people on both sides of this divide, those struggling and those who have already failed.** The community needs to **extend compassion and understanding** toward those who so suffer the ruptures that do happen in life for whatever reason, and there are many. So Jesus is very challenging, and the challenge is not only to those who are married, but **to the whole community to support marriage.**