

**Marriage**    Seventh Week in Ordinary Time    Friday, May 25, 2018    8:15 AM    Jas 5:9-12;    **Mk 10:1-12**    (St. Bede the Venerable, priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, pope; St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, religious)    (When God brings together a man and woman, that becomes something of a new creation because when God does it, it brings two people together into a unity that no one can rend asunder.)

**“But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.”**

So here Jesus is employing one of his very unique roles as the revealer of the mysteries of creation. This is not a typical way prophets or wise men spoke, but **Jesus speaks as one knowing the mind of God**, knowing the intentions of God, knowing how things were at the beginning; and I believe this is **fundamental to Jesus’ basic mission that he does know the intentions of God and can reveal them.**

Now the Jewish people believed in marriage and they believed marriage was a very important thing, but they believed in marriage as basically a legal institution; and like all legal institutions it was full of all kinds of rules. Now the Rabbis disputed, not whether a person could divorce, but they disputed on what grounds. One Rabbi said, oh, it had to be very serious; another rabbi said, well, no it doesn’t, and so on. And this is really asking for Jesus’ take on this: well, what do you think? In a way I think Jesus’ answer is very surprising. **He completely goes beyond law itself, and he talks about marriage not as a legal institution, but he talks about it as a relationship that is rooted in nature itself, in the creation itself.**

Now of course this begs the question: well who really is married? That he does not answer, but he says that what God has created is something that goes beyond law and courts and all those things that human beings talk about. So when God brings together a man and woman—when God brings them together, which is not to say every time people think that there is a marriage—but **when God brings together a man and a woman, that becomes something of a new creation because when God does it, it brings two people together into a unity that no one can rend asunder.** That is actually the plain meaning of his words.