



Friday, August 18, 2023
Friday of the Nineteenth
Week in Ordinary Time



Good morning!

We read Joshua 24:1-13, Psalm 136, and Matthew 19:3-12. God speaks through Joshua to all the tribes of Israel at Shechem resounding the relationship God has with the tribes and how God has given freely a land that they did not till, cities to dwell in that they did not build, and vineyards and olive groves to eat from that they did not grow. God desires a right relationship with Israel and as we know a right relationship is always a two-way street of respect and love. Jesus speaks of the right relationships gone wrong when he is asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" Jesus speaks of marriage, divorce, and the celibate life. Jesus reminds us that, "The Creator made them male and female and said, For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." God's model of marriage and relationship is one of fidelity, care, and compassion. When one of these falter, the relationship begins to crumble. As God never left the people of Israel, so in marriage, God never leaves the couple and cares for them. These may be considered high standards, but if one chooses marriage, one is to be faithful, caring, and compassionate. If one chooses a single life or celibacy, the same standards exist, to be faithful, caring, and compassionate. Grace allows us to do the above.

Peace,

RevKev

"His mercy endures forever."

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