THE IMPACT OF THE MASTER TEACHER

"JESUS AND THE DIVORCE TEST"

(Mark 10:1-12)

TESTING QUESTIONS

- Do you believe a woman has a right over her own body?
- Do you have any experience in this type of work?
- Do you believe in original sin?
- Do you believe in same-sex marriage?
- Do you believe in separation of church and state?
- Do you believe *only* Christians are going to heaven?
- Do you believe salvation comes through baptism? Infant?
- Do you really believe there is a Hell?
- Have you stopped beating your wife yet?
- Do you believe in divorce?

"……'Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce,' says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'and him who covers his garment with wrong,' says the LORD of hosts. 'So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.'"

(Malachi 2:15-16)

MOSES' LAW

(Deut 24:1-4)

(1) "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house,

(2) and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's *wife*,

(3) and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife,

(4) *then* her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

DIVORCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Penalty for adultery: execution
- Divorce was widespread and frivolous in Israel: hard hearts
- Legal Bill of Divorcement: means of protecting innocent woman
- Moses permitted divorce
- Remarriage was permitted

MARRIAGE GOD'S WAY

- Male & female – God created them (Gen 1:27)
- Loneliness needed relief – "…a helper suitable for him…" (Gen 2:18)
- Man is to leave & cleave (Gen 2:24)
- The two become one flesh: body, soul, sprit

GOD JOINS; MAN DIVIDES

- God joins: permanence in the union
- Satan desires to see Christian marriages destroyed
- Husbands & wives have their roles (1 Pet 3:7; Col 3:18-19)
- Love is a verb: agapao; phileo; eros
  - Agapao: servanthood in the relationship
  - Phileo: affection in the relationship
  - Eros: physical nature of love; sensuality (Greek literature; not in N.T.)
- Only ONE can meet our deepest needs and longings

LEARNING FROM JESUS

- When tested, go to the Word of God
- Divorces impact our society and God's church
- We need to bring our marriages in line with God's plan for couples
- We need to bury past mistreatments