

LENT DEVOTIONAL APRIL 9, 2014

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:1-16

1 He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus teaches. That's not surprising; he's spent much of his time throughout the gospel doing just that, and the people had a chance to sit and learn from Jesus. But notice what the Pharisees do. They try to test Jesus. The students test the teacher. They've got it backwards! How can a student learn if she is too busy testing the teacher?

Yet, look at Christ's response. He doesn't admonish them for asking. He handles the test and teaches them from it. Perhaps it's not as much as they could have learned if they had listened obediently, but even then, the Teacher teaches.

*Message provided by the **Miller Summer Youth Institute**.*

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