



“What did Moses command you?”

A. Intro: *The Love Letter*

B. Sermon in a Sentence: *How we view God's commands reveals how we view God.*

C. Context of the Question

Jesus and his disciples are steadily moving toward Jerusalem and his prophesied death. Along the way, the Jewish Pharisees set up another trap to either embarrass or invalidate Jesus as a teacher. The Jews' ultimate goal is to build momentum for executing Jesus as a heretic.

D. Mark 10:1-12 (ESV)

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

² And Pharisees came up and in order to test him 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 divorce and to send her away.” ⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

¹⁰ And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ And 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.”

E. LIFE APPLICATIONS:

1. **When facing a trap, learn to listen carefully to your accuser and to God.**
2. **Marriage is meant as a living representation of our one flesh relationship with Jesus.**
3. _____ **is a test of our faith and love for God. (fill in the blank)**
4. **When the Lord convicts us of our sins, confession and repentance prepare us for His healing.**
 - **Pride** is excessive belief in one's own abilities, that interferes with the individual's recognition of the grace of God. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Pride is also known as Vanity.
 - **Envy** is the desire for others' traits, status, abilities, or situation.
 - **Gluttony** is an inordinate desire to consume more than that which one requires.
 - **Lust** is an inordinate craving for the pleasures of the body.
 - **Anger** is manifested in the individual who spurns love and opts instead for fury. It is also known as Wrath.
 - **Greed** is the desire for material wealth or gain, ignoring the realm of the spiritual. It is also called Avarice or Covetousness.
 - **Sloth** is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work.

F. Small Group or Individual Study Questions

1. What academic or personal tests have you experienced?
2. How do you fare under personal attack?
3. Why is God's view of marriage more permanent than the world's view?
4. Who do you know that needs your prayers for their marriage?
5. Who do you know that needs your prayers for their “marriage” to God?