THE F1RST SERMON

THE BIBLE LAB

05

YES&NO

1. When a man brings his wife flowers for no reason, there's a reason. [Molly McGee]

2. Marriage seems less important to kids today than it did to my grandparents.

3. Women cannot complain about harassment when they dress seductively.

4. Husbands should have the deciding vote in any and all divorces.

5. When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. [Prince Phillip]

DIG DEEP

READ: Matthew 5:27-30 (NIV)
27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

∞ What have you typically heard that Jesus meant by these verses?

» Why did Jesus only list the right eye and hand? Does that mean it's acceptable to commit adultery if you're left-eye dominant and left handed?

» How literal do you think Jesus was speaking regarding gouging eyes and chopping off hands?

» The meaning of "causes you to stumble" (σκανδαλίζει - skandalizei) -

» Who is Jesus talking to, and who is he ***not*** talking to? What difference does that make?

READ: Matthew 5:31-32 (NIV)
31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

∞ What have you been told that this means?

NOTES

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DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

° THE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

» **Shammi** - More conservative. Grounds for divorce was some grave matrimonial offense. Limited "indecent" to offenses of marital impropriety short of adultery (shameful exposure, let her hair down, talked to men in public, cause another man to look at her lustfully, talked negatively about husband's parents, immodest, etc.)

» **Hillel** - More lax. Grounds for divorce included: Bad cook, burnt the meal, being plain and unattractive, husband found someone more attractive.

∞ Knowing the perspectives of the people concerning marriage and divorce, what seems to be Jesus' greatest concern? What is he challenging these men to do?

» Jesus started this whole sermon by saying that "your righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law." How do his statements about adultery and divorce help you understand what this "surpassing" really is?

NOTES

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How am I committed to being loving rather than to being satisfied?

2. What Commandments have I bent to fit my desires?

3. What part of God's character do I see more clearly now?

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