

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 10:1-16 (click to open link)

REFLECT:

"The truth is, you can bend Scripture to say just about anything you want it to say. You can bend it until it breaks. For those who count the Bible as sacred, interpretation is not a matter of whether to pick and choose, but how to pick and choose. We're all selective. We all wrestle with how to interpret and apply the Bible to our lives. We all go to the text looking for something, and we all have a tendency to find it. So the question we have to ask ourselves is this: are we reading with the prejudice of love, with Christ as our model, or are we reading with the prejudices of judgment and power, self-interest and greed? Are we seeking to enslave or liberate, burden or set free?"

- Rachel Held Evans, Inspired.

Think before you speak.

Wise words. Even better advice.

Ever been in a conversation and could tell you were being tested? Asked a tricky question. A question that, no matter which side you were on, could create more tension and lead to someone questioning you further?

This is exactly what was happening to Jesus in Mark 10:1-12. The Pharisees were becoming increasingly hostile toward Jesus and were looking for some way to trip him up. For something that would cause people to doubt him. So, they pick the topic of divorce. In asking the question, they are essentially trying to get Jesus to pick a side. Knowing that, once he does, a fight would ensue. But, Jesus knows this is battle that he does not have to fight. He knows this and does something that many of us forget when in the same predicament. He thinks before he speaks. And, then, he refers to scripture through his answer. But, he doesn't just use scripture to back up his argument. Because there is no argument. No judgment. Just love. When Jesus says, "it is written" He does so with love in mind.

RESPOND:

How can you approach tough conversations the way Jesus did?

How can you approach scripture with Christ as your model rather than self-interested?

How can using Christ as your model change the outcome of tough conversations?