

“Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?” Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”
Mark 10:2-3 NLT

lectio // Mark 10:1-16

I've been having a conversation in my head. Have you ever done that? It's been about Paul's letter to the churches in Corinth specifically in 1 Cor. 3:3,4 and his discussion about Milk and Meat. The idea is that milk is the law and meat is the living, active word of God highlighting principles that are harder to follow but simple in the context of love. This passage is a good example that Jesus highlights and the religious leaders are a perfect object lesson. They ask a question intending to force only one answer, Jesus asks a "milk" question because that's all they can handle. Got divorce? What does the law say? They answer. Moses said in Deuteronomy 24:1, "it is permitted." But do the religious leaders know why Moses said that? No, or they don't seem to remember why the whole law was given in the first place. Because our hearts are hard. Then Jesus gives them meat. "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Milk; divorce is permitted because we are too stubborn to make it work. Meat; God intends marriage to be a permanent union here on earth, demonstrating the love and patience that submission and obedience can yield. Law=limits (that can be good). Principles=freedom to do what is right without force.

oratio

Dad,
I feel so much happier, almost safer, knowing the rules, the limits, and the boundaries. However, I also feel enormous guilt when I knowingly violate those rules. Your principles or precepts, your leading and guiding me closer to your heart helps give me hope. You know my frame, my frailties and failures. You also see my love, earnestly stretching towards you as I repent and yield to your will. Thank you for grace and determined pursuit to make me into the image of Christ.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root