

# Mark 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

## Analysis

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Jesus responded to the Pharisees' question with His own: 'What did Moses command you?' (Τί ὑμῖν ἐνετείλατο Μωϋσῆς;). This counter-question is pedagogically brilliant—Jesus forces His opponents to articulate the scriptural basis for their position before revealing the deeper issue. He uses 'command' (eneteilato, ἐνετείλατο), though Deuteronomy 24:1-4 is actually a permission, not command—Moses regulated but didn't mandate divorce. By asking what Moses 'commanded,' Jesus subtly highlights that divorce wasn't God's ideal but a concession. This method—answering questions with questions—appears throughout Jesus' teaching (Mark 2:25; 11:30; 12:24). It engages opponents' minds, reveals their assumptions, and prepares for deeper truth. Jesus never merely answered surface questions but addressed underlying heart issues.

## Historical Context

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Appealing to Moses' authority was standard in first-century Jewish debate. 'What did Moses command/say?' was common rabbinic formula for establishing biblical grounds. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 was the primary text governing divorce, requiring a written certificate if a man divorced his wife for 'some uncleanness.' Jesus' counter-question forced Pharisees to state this text, which He would then reframe in light of Genesis 1-2 (vv. 6-8), showing that Moses' concession was accommodation to sin, not God's creational intent. This interpretive method—reading later Scripture in light of earlier revelation about creation design—became

foundational for Christian ethics. Jesus established creation ordinances as normative, with Mosaic concessions as temporary accommodations.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' method of answering questions with questions model wise engagement that reveals assumptions rather than merely debating positions?
2. What does Jesus' distinction between Mosaic permission and divine ideal teach about interpreting Scripture's regulations versus God's creational design?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	δὲ	ἀποκριθεὶς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Τί	ὕμῖν	ἐνετείλατο
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>he answered</b>	<b>and said</b>	<b>unto them</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>command</b>
	G1161	G611	G2036	G846	G5101	G5213	G1781

Μωσῆς

**did Moses**  
G3475