

Questioning

Mark 10:2-9
Charlie Brackett

In answer to the Pharisees' question, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

Jesus often answered a question with a question. On another occasion the chief priests and elders came to Him asking by what authority He did the things He did, and who gave Him the authority. Jesus' response at Matthew 21:24 was, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things:.."

Answering a question with a question is a very effective teaching technique. It helps the teacher find out exactly what is troubling the student. It clarifies and focuses on the real issue to be discussed. But this technique does more. It allows the teacher to guide the student to his own discovery of what is being taught. With proper questioning the teacher can help the student uncover meaningful facts and ultimately reach the right conclusion about them on his own. Discovering truth for yourself is always more effective learning than being told.

When Jesus asked, "What did Moses command you?" He directed their thinking to the authority for what they did, and then to the reason the practice began. Listen to His response in verse 5. "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept." They practiced divorce for any reason because their forefathers were so hard of heart Moses allowed it. But God didn't want it so, and Jesus is now in a position to teach them that.

We all have occasions to teach another in our homes, in the church, at work or wherever there is suitable contact. Use questioning to target your teaching. Use it to help your student discover answers for himself. You'll be a better teacher for it, and when it is the gospel you are teaching, your effectiveness for the Lord's glory will be enhanced.