

"Is it lawful for man to put away his wife for every cause"

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Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

To show that the Jews asserted/believed that the Law of Moses endorsed the putting away of a wife for 'every cause'.

Supporting Evidence

Here we see that the Jews tempted Jesus by asking Him if the law endorsed this putting away for a trivial matter ('some uncleanness').

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

(Mat 19:3 KJV)

And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.

(Mar 10:2 KJV)

At the time of Jesus the views of the school of Hillel were the prevalent thought concerning divorce. Hillel believed that the precept in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 allowed them to put their wives away for any trifling reason a man could come up with.

Its clear when the Pharisees tempt Jesus that they are of this more common view since the question itself shows that they believe that the Law allowed them to put her away 'for every cause'.

They 'tempt' Him in that, since they believe as Hillel believes as most of Israel does at this point, that His response will certainly contradict their interpretation of the Law and thus cause the masses to turn against Jesus.

They clearly believe that they have the law on their side in even asking Him in the manner to have. Thus it stands to reason that they do believe that the Law itself given in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 is actually giving endorsement to putting away in this manner.

If they do not believe that the Law does endorse putting away 'for every cause' then the question itself becomes entirely senseless.