

The Markan and Matthean) Jesus' appropriation and criticism of the Torah: The question of divorce.

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(The Markan and Matthean) Jesus' appropriation and criticism of the divorce

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Abstract

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus functions as a Moses figure who, in the Sermon on the Mount, proclaims the kingdom of God. In this article it is argued that Jesus drew his ethic from his Jewish tradition, as manifested in the Pentateuch. However, although being an inspiring source, to Jesus the Pentateuch (or scripture) was not an authority that was criticised. This is illustrated by focusing on the question of divorce (Mk 10:2–12; Mt 5:27–32; 19:3–12). The Pentateuch was guided by an ethic of compassion. In view of Jesus' stance, an uncritical use of the Bible (as is done in many Christian circles) ironically contradicts the Bible's own message and nature.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v67i1.1006>

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