

Miss Grace Mingo arrived here on Friday June 23, by Caribair from the U.S.A. The charming Miss Mingo who is attending college in the U.S.A. is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mingo of Grand Case, and is spending her summer vacation with her parents here.

The W.Is' Opinion welcomes her in our midst and wishes her a pleasant stay.

Many persons expressed their disappointment at not seeing Dr. Petit, Mayor and General Councillor of Marigot, on the wharf in Grand Case on Tuesday June 27, to take leave of the young men who left aboard the Delgres for Military training in France.

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH

TO

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

By Rev. K.R. Khan

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE

St. Mathew's Gospel - 19:1-13;
St. Mark's Gospel - 10:2-9;

(Continued from last issue)

P A R T I I

When Jesus declares His position, He offers no compromise. He holds a high ideal in terms of God's purpose. He puts men and women on the same terms. And this is one of the distinctive advances in Christian teaching. Christ's teaching on divorce, both here and elsewhere in the Gospels, has for centuries been a battle field for contending views and interpretations, and will doubtless continue to be. Yet, if we come to His words, not to find support for positions previously reached, but honestly to learn His mind and spirit in the matter, He will furnish us a "lamp for our feet"...

Three main things emerge from a study of this passage in Mark.

(1) Jesus transferred the whole discussion from the realm of, is it lawful? into the higher realm of the purposes of God, and the moral and spiritual realities of the marriage relationship.

(2) He laid profound emphasis on the permanence and sanctity of marriage.

(3) The passage provides an impressive picture of the towering greatness of Jesus as a Champion of women.

Against the customs of His time; against the prevalence of the idea of male dominance wh h

runs through Hebrew thought and practice, He gave to His nation and the world, a new conception of women as persons equal in the sight of God.

However, He showed great courage in answering this question as He did. It was asked for the purpose of trapping Him into saying something that could be turned into an indictment against Him, and He knew it. The Pharisees wanted to get Him publicly to assert His authority against that of Moses. There is no hesitation. He seemed to have said to himself - "All Right-you asked for it".

His principle of judgment was the same as in other matters - that human and spiritual values are to be set above specific regulations. He saw how Deut 24:1-4 violated God's purpose in the marriage relationship.

To Him this permission of Moses, making divorce easy, and resulting in cruel injustice, was a case of man-made tradition in violation of the commandment of God. Against such an accommodation He laid tremendous emphasis on the fundamental principle of the permanence of marriage. It was an emphasis needed in his day-and desperately needed in ours, when for instance in the U.S. one in every four marriages end in divorce.

Marriage is not a matter of man's temporary convenience or pleasure, but of God's holy purpose. There is a spiritual as well as a physical union of man and woman, and part of its essential nature is in its permanence. When marriage drops to the level of "money-back-if-not-satisfied purchase", or a 30 days trial offer of a bargain, as it has with so many, it ceases to be marriage at its true potential; with no sense of its august and solemn finality; with no facing and accepting of that closing of doors "till death do us part". And brethren, without that element of finality, the security of the home is gone, the social fabric is torn, and the finest school on earth for the discipline and growth of character is on the way out.

Consider the words, "so they are no longer two, but one".

This is God's arithmetic; fantastic when one comes to think about it - "one plus one equals one". Yes, but it is a fantasy which has become factual in millions of lives. In the light of this we see quite clearly why training and counselling for marriage is essential. Marriage and the home are test of character, and no childish mentality can ever pass the test. Neither can the self-centered individualist. When adult infants marry; when the boy looking for a mother marries - the girl looking for a father, sooner or later, the crash is bound to come.

(To be continued next week)

DRIVE SAFELY! THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAYBE YOUR OWN