

**April 28, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church**  
**Message Series: The Gospel of Mark**  
**Week 43: “...Jesus Taught in the Temple...”**  
**Text: Mark 12:35-44**

We’re unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. The Gospel writer’s audience are Roman believers and he really focuses on presenting Jesus as the Messiah King and Suffering Servant. He works to answer three questions “who is Jesus?”, “what did Jesus come to do?”, and “what does Jesus expect of you?”

In this passage Jesus is moving quickly towards the cross. This is the last week of His life before the resurrection and the Gospel writer is going to spend much of his time covering these final days of leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Much of what we have been covering feels and sounds very repetitive. In a conversation this week I was encouraged with the reminder that when we’re walking through a book of the Bible that there will be some recurring themes, and each is a great opportunity to take a fresh look at Jesus and ourselves in light of Him and the truth presented.

The last passage we covered ended with Jesus telling one of the scribes that he was “not far from the kingdom of God”. There was an exchange between this scribe and Jesus about which commandment was most important and Jesus told him that the most important was to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. The scribe agreed and his agreement and answer was noted as wise by Jesus, but Jesus still said he was “not far from the kingdom”. What this scribe was missing was what Jesus is about to teach on. He was missing Jesus.

Let’s READ our TEXT

We want to pick up the teaching of Jesus in this passage to truly understand that...

***Seeing Jesus for who He is will cause our lives to be marked by  
humility, trust, and devotion to Him.***

This scribe in verses 28-34 seemed to understand more than most of his colleagues, but what he was missing was keeping him outside the kingdom of God. He was missing Biblical truths about the Messiah, and the reality that Jesus is the Messiah.

**We Must Believe that...**

✓ **Seeing Jesus for Who He is... – v 35-37**

- Jesus is the Messiah
- Jesus is God
- He is Holy and worthy

It’s Jesus’ turn to ask a question and he doesn’t waste any time in asking one that quiets His critics. He quotes part of Psalm 110 and asks how the Messiah (Christ) can be David’s junior – son in David’s lineage – and at the same time be superior to David as David calls Him his Lord. Those listening obviously have no answer. Again, they expected the Messiah to be a man of military and political power that would rescue them from the oppressive power of the Roman Empire, but the reality that He is God – He is divine – that was difficult to wrap their minds around. It wasn’t that their expectation of the Messiah was too big, it was that it was too small. He wasn’t there to offer them temporary relief from an outside oppression, but to offer them eternal healing from their terminal

internal disease of sin. They saw their problem as being from the outside, but in reality it was on the inside. The Romans were not their problem, their own sinfulness was. Overthrowing the Romans gov't would not have changed their heart to know and love God. That could only happen through the death and resurrection of Jesus as the second member of the Trinity. It is not enough to mentally recognize through one moment in time that Jesus is God's Son and died for your sin and rose again, but that truth never affect your heart. We need to keep growing in Him. Keep asking Him to change us. Keep seeing Him as Holy and worthy of your everything. It's not enough to want a Jesus that can change your situation but not think that it's really your heart that needs the change. Believing Biblical truth about Jesus does a work in us and that is noticeable to those around us, because seeing Jesus for who He is...

✓ **Will Cause Our Lives to be Marked by... – v 38-44**

- Humility
- Trust
- Devotion to Him

So we have the scribes that have access to the Scriptures, ability in the Scriptures, and an expectation to handle well the Scriptures, but they only using the Scriptures to serve their selfish interests, and Jesus says that “they will receive greater condemnation”. I don't know what that is exactly, but I know it's not a good thing. And then here you have this “poor widow” that, if nothing else, Jesus uses to teach His disciples what humility, trust, and devotion look like. Is this a further indictment on the scribes for taking advantage of people like her? It very well could be, but we shouldn't miss this as Jesus compares the scribes who prided themselves on knowing so much, but in reality got it so wrong and this woman, who had so little, but seemed to truly understand so much.

These scribes failed to recognize that the Messiah is fully divine, fully God, and much less that Jesus is the Messiah.. Their wrong beliefs about God led them think wrongly about themselves and treat others terribly wrong. Rather than loving God and loving others, they loved themselves and used others. Their wrong beliefs overflowed into wrong hearts and sinful actions. They got it wrong with their mind, heart, and hands.

Today, if we heard someone claiming to be Christian but teaching that Jesus wasn't fully God, we would call it heresy or false teaching. Most all of us here believe that Jesus is fully God and the Messiah who came to save the world from sin and death and reconcile us to God the Father. We believe the things that they missed. So if we have right theology, do our, or your, right beliefs overflow into changed hearts and Christ-like actions? As believers, people that believe in Jesus for salvation, are we, are you, known to be humble, trusting, and devoted? Our theology, what we believe about God, cannot stop in our minds. It must affect the heart and overflow through our hands. For these experts in the Scriptures called scribes because their information didn't lead to transformation it will lead to a greater condemnation. Remember, every time we hear passages like this one and it feels very similar to what we've been hearing lately, it's a great time to do a couple or three things.

Be reminded to...

1. Be thankful for the extreme grace of God that has saved you and be encouraged that it is changing to be more like Jesus.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you're not striving to be more like Jesus, and ask Him to empower that change.
3. Stop pretending that you know Jesus if you only know about Him, but your heart and actions have remained unchanged by Him.

### **Storying Mark 12:35-44**

Spend a little time coming up with your own Observation and Interpretation questions. Look back at past message notes for help.

### **Questions**

✓ **Observation: What does it say?**

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✓ **Interpretation: What does it mean?**

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✓ **Application: How do I respond?**

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