

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 22, Mark 12:1-44

INTRODUCTION

The distinction between Jesus and the religious rulers of the time is growing wider. Jesus is teaching contrary to the custom and preference of the religious leaders and their response is growing more hostile. They have no interest in the type of king Jesus will rule as or the kingdom He has come to establish. This passage tells of three different groups and three different attempts to question Jesus. The attempts to convict Him are becoming more desperate and Jesus' answers are becoming more direct.

PRAYER

READ

Have a few people read aloud Mark 12:1-44.

SUMMARIZE

Ask two people to summarize the passage who didn't summarize last week or who have not summarized a passage yet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Mark has presented several groups of people throughout his narrative: the Pharisees, the disciples, the ruling government, the men/women who were healed, the scribes, the characters of the parables, etc.. Which group do you identify most with? What section of the narrative has been most convicting for you? Most encouraging for you?

2. Reread Mark 12:1-12. How do you see the life of Jesus in this parable? What motivated the tenant's response to the people the farmer sent to collect the profit? How does our own spiritual blindness and proclivity to hide and protect sin lead us to respond in similar ways?

N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-19

O.T. FURTHER READING

Ex. 3:1-4; Duet. 6:4-5; Isa. 5:1-7; Psalm 118:22-23

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

3. Reread Mark 12:13-17. The Pharisees have joined with the Herodians in another attempt to trap Jesus. Why does His response to their question leave them stunned? What are the things that belong to God and are you rendering them to Him? What things are you trying to keep from God? What things are hardest for you to give to God?

4. Read Mark 12:18-27. In their attempt to trick Jesus and make the resurrection seem ridiculous, the Sadducees misunderstand the Scriptures and the power of God. How are you prone to the same error? In what ways do you doubt and question the power of God? What Scriptures are hard for you to believe as true?

5. In Mark 12:28-40 we see Jesus speaking to and about the scribes. What does Jesus say is the greatest commandment and what does His answer mean? Who were the scribes and why does Jesus warn against them (v.38-40)?

6. Read Mark 12:41-44 in contrast to 12:38-40. Why does Jesus say that the widow gave more? What about trusting the Lord can we learn from the faith of the widow?

NOTES

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 12:29-31

RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Lent Week 3)

Personal: Thinking about the commandment Jesus gives in verses 29-32, how does this look in your life? What are obstacles to loving the Lord with all of your heart, mind and strength?

Church: Thinking about verses 29-32 what are ways that our church can better love our neighbors? What are ways that your homegroup can play a role in that?

World: Who are our neighbors on a global scale and how can we better love them? How does loving the Lord with all our heart, mind, and soul affect how we love our neighbors globally?

LENT READING (Psalm 32:1-7)

PRAY TOGETHER

