

Jesus the Messiah

Mark 12:35-44

1. Is My Understanding Adequate? Vs. 35-37

Jesus began questioning the teachers of the law about their understanding of the Messiah. They chose to interpret Psalm 110 with new meaning which hindered their understanding of the Messiah being divine. Jesus revealed that yes, the Messiah will be a descendent of David, but he will surpass David's lineage as calling the Messiah just the "Son of David" will fall short the complete capturing of Jesus identity.

Jesus asked this question to those who claim to be students of God's Word. Those who live for Jesus should be seen as students of God's Word and therefore should have the correct understanding of who Jesus is.

Question:

- How does understanding Jesus as both the Son of David and the Son of God impact our faith and relationship with Him?

2. Who Am I Emulating? Vs. 38-40

Jesus warns those listening to watchout and not take on the tendencies and typical behaviours of the teachers of the law who serve their own egos and choose to enrich themselves at the expense of the poor and vulnerable.

When we look at our own life, is our focus to emulate Jesus or emulate a different version of Christianity? If we are not intentional in choosing to live for Jesus each day, our life will no longer reflect Christ.

Question:

- In what ways can we fall into the same traps as the teachers of the law, and how can we avoid them?

3. Do I Have an Undivided Heart as I Follow Jesus? Vs. 41-44

Jesus taught from the observation of this poor widow whose gift was insignificant in the eyes of an accountant, but God saw her gift as the greatest gift, as she gave up all she had to her God. Jesus revealed that the value of a gift is not the amount, but the cost to the giver.

The sacrifice of "all she had" is what following Jesus looks like. The widow laying down her whole life, is what Jesus did for us, as He sacrificially died on the cross for our sins.

Nothing we give to Jesus is considered insignificant. "In the divine exchange rate things look differently. That which made no difference in the books of the temple is immortalized in the Book of Life."

- James Edwards

Question:

- In what ways are outward appearances misleading?
- Why is giving your all to God worth the cost?
- What does having an undivided heart towards God look like?