

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Mark 12:35-40

Jesus was constantly being tested by the Jewish leaders through various questions. These questions were designed to trip Him up so that He would indict Himself and the people in power in that day could get on with their business without having to acknowledge God. But Jesus would not permit that to be the case. In a manner that might even seem rude to us in contemporary culture, Jesus shoots back at the teachers of the Law—insisting to them that they did not know the Scriptures the way they thought they did.

In this particular section, Jesus not only uses their own tactic of asking supposedly unanswerable questions, but He lays out the despicable character traits of those who were in authority. He does not stop at “live-and-let-live” where Jesus could just live in peace and let them carry on as well. No, Jesus needs to make sure people understand the evil in their hearts and give the people hope outside of the reality in which they lived.

Context

Jesus is in Jerusalem and has finished answering several deep theological questions from various people. He has taught openly in the Temple courts and has answered questions sufficiently for people to finally stop asking them (v. 34). However, once the dialogue stops is usually when the violence begins. This passage marks the beginning of the end. There are no more questions to be asked, only conspiracy to commit violence against Him leading up to Friday...

Structure

- I. Jesus asks a question about the Messiah (35-37)
- II. Jesus warns about false teachers (38-40)

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 12:35-40

“Whose Son Is He?”

Passion Week

Sunday – Rode in as a KING

Friday – Died as a PRIEST

Tuesday – Taught as a PROPHET

I. Witness: Corrects Bad Teaching (35-37)

Question: Son of David?

Question: Lord of All?

II. Warning: Exposes Bad Teachers (38-40)

What they LIKE.

What they DO.

What they GET.

Discuss

- 1) Most of us have heard skeptics question Christianity, often times with malicious intentions. Why is it so often the case that Christians do not ask questions of skeptics? Why do we not follow Christ's pattern of pushing back against those who are so vocal in their unbelief? Should we? If so, what are the right circumstances?
- 2) The scribes and teachers of the law understood the Messiah would be a descendant of David. Read Psalm 89:19-29. How does that passage describe what God will do for David's descendant?
- 3) Pastor Don pointed out that Jesus affirms the inspiration of Scripture when He quotes Psalm 110:1. When you read the Bible, do you tend to think of it more as a book written by people (i.e. Moses, David, Paul, etc.)? Or do you think of it more as a book written by God? How does understanding the Bible as a book written ultimately by God change the way we approach it and value time reading it?
- 4) How would you describe Jesus' portrayal of the scribes (v. 38-40) in your own words? Do you know people like that? In what ways does that same heart condition manifest itself today?
- 5) It is easy for us to think of the Jewish leaders as backwards and look down on them. Yet we are prone to the same sinful tendencies they are. How can we protect ourselves from similar thoughts of pride or self-importance?