

Lesson Notes: Mark 12

Introductory Questions

1. In this chapter, who came against Jesus? Who are similar parties of our culture today? What do you notice about how He handles these confrontations?
2. In this chapter, where do you see Jesus showing contentment? passion? frustration? courage? What does this teach you?
3. Are you most like the religious leaders, the near-to-the-Kingdom teacher, the listening & delighted (and fickle) crowd, or the widow?
4. What is it about the giving widow that captures your heart?

Drawing the Line

Jesus, when confronted by religious groups, re-emphasizes several key points:

1. Using a parable, Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of the vineyard owner (God). His enemies were the _____.
2. Earthly systems (like taxes) are merely _____ when compared to God's systems. His systems are based on _____, not behavior.
3. Religious leaders quoted Scripture but Jesus said they didn't _____ or the _____ of God!
4. God is above and beyond the systems and organizations of this limited, death-colored world: He **is** the _____!
5. When Jesus got tired of their religious tomfoolery, He just stumped them. The crowd loved it.
6. The picture of trust, the image of true beauty and devotion: _____

Conclusion

Jesus is crystal clear on what true religion is and is not. He wants none of it.

Jesus does not try to impress the religious crowd. No need to cull their favor, no need for their approval. His "approval need" was from His Father only.

Jesus meet conflict head-on. Conflict either brought change, or condemnation; crowd delight or religious consternation; clarity or confusion.

Jesus is the true Son of God, and He was going to the cross. He knew it, embraced it, and fearlessly walked toward it. He faced the very people who would kill Him and stood up to their pressures, continually trying to point them to God and the Truth, knowing they would kill Him.

Application and Discussion Questions

- Review your homework together.
- What warnings do you take personally from this chapter?
- Who are you most like in Mark 12?
- How can you be more like Jesus in how you handle conflict?
- From whom are you trying to get approval? Why? How can you transfer your need for approval to God, rather than that person(s)?
- Do you believe that Jesus loved you with such a fierce passion that He did this for you? Take this personally: Jesus went through all this for the love of His Father and the sake of the elect. What love! How can you live to show Jesus your forever-gratitude?
- In what ways can you and I be more like the widow?