

DO YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURES AND THE POWER OF GOD?

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 12:13-27

31 March A.D. 2013

When you read the Gospel of Mark, what is your impression of Jesus?

Mark 12:13-17 Because all authority comes from and resides in him Jesus refuses to separate church and state and won't let us do so either.

12:13 *Pharisees and Herodians*: strange alliances arise when people are confronted with Christ's kingdom.

12:14-15 Using truth to manipulate will not draw Jesus into our traps (Scripture twisting)

Denarius: a coin worth about a days wages used for the head-tax/census established in A.D. 6. On it was the head and face of the emperor surrounded by the words: August Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus. And on the back was *Pontius Maximus=High Priest* of the Roman political-religious cult.

Hypocrisy: to create a public impression that is at odds with one's real purposes or motivations, play-acting, pretense, outward show, dissembling (BDAG Lexicon)

12:15-16 Jesus may be having fun with their hypocrisy by asking them to bring him the coin, making the Pharisees who want him to offend the people by affirming the use of this blasphemous Roman coin and all it represents.

12:17 Christ is Lord over all and distributes authority in creation (according to times and seasons of his own choosing)

Jesus may be playing on the words of 1 Maccabees 2:68 which says, pay back/render to the Gentiles what they deserve—and obey the commands of the law. This might imply: send this idolatrous coin back where it belongs: to Rome.

Yet Jesus implies, submission to human authority (established by God: Romans 12). We serve in the time between Christ's first and second coming. We are pilgrims. No earthly revolution, political or religious can bring in the kingdom.

In the Jerusalem temple it is difficult not to see image bearing (giving to God what he deserves) in light of offering ourselves to him: Romans 12:1 *offer your bodies as living sacrifices*. This points to Jesus, the only perfect image-bearer who will give himself as our substitute.

Mark 12:18-27 God is not the God of the dead but of the living and keeps covenant forever with those he brings into relationship with him.

12:18-23 *Sadducees*: believe not in resurrection, angels or demons. Hold only to first five Books of Moses. They feared those who spoke too much of bodily resurrection; it might lead them to risk-taking behavior.

The law of Levirate marriage (Deut 25:5-6) was given to provide for a deceased brother's family line.

12:24 Jesus tells them they understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God

12:24-25 in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage

1 Cor 15:42-50 We do not become angels but are like them in this regard.

12:26-27 Jesus turns them to the Pentateuch, to Exodus 3:6, to show them they do not understand either Scripture or the power of God.

The context is God's covenant: the God who is redeeming Israel from Egypt (the quotation here from Exo 3:6) has promised a greater than Moses, a greater than David, a city greater than the one Abraham longed for—and all of God's covenant people will be in it.

Note Mat 8:11, John 8:56 & Luke 16:22-25

John 17:1–3 (NASB95) 1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 **“This is eternal life, that they may know You,** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

The reality of the covenant scriptures and the power of God is ultimately displayed in Jesus' the Redeemer/Restorer's resurrection from the dead.

Rom 1:4 & Rom 8:28-30

AND God's power will be shown in his resurrection of those who are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:20–23 (NASB95) **20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. **21** For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

WE are those who live as a community of strangers, of pilgrims who know the resurrection. We are those who know the resurrection among those who only know the land of the dying.

Resurrection Sunday is the annual reminder that we do not worship on the Sabbath the seventh day of the week to celebrate God as Creator. We worship on the first day of the week to worship God as Creator and Re-Creator and Redeemer.

We live by the Spirit in the life of the resurrection that is already ours. We live by faith in Jesus who's given us the Spirit and His fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. We bear the new fruit of God's new vineyard.

If we know the power of God we can with relative peace wait through Jesus' delays that refine us as we walk in a broken land.

Are you given to anger—are you beginning to conquer it?

Are you learning to be a forgiver? We show we know the power of God and know God and his Son when we are characterized by forgiveness.

Are you blind to the gospel because you live too much in your hurts or compensate for them by living for yourself and your pleasures: *YOLO!* again.