



## Love God, Hate Lies

Community Study Guide: **Mark 12:35-44** –Week of April 14th, 2024

### 1. Love the Scripture like Jesus

After rebutting a series of tests from the religious elites, Jesus then pivots to teaching in the temple. He directs those who listen to consider a common teaching from the scribes. The particular point is their teaching on Psalms 110. In that passage, the Holy Spirit guided David to record an exchange from God to the Messiah. David writes that the Lord (Yahweh) says to David's Lord (Adonai) that Adonai should sit at Yahweh's right hand, until such time that Yahweh places Adonai's enemies under His feet. The seemingly paradoxical conundrum that Jesus is directing the people to is regarding how the Scribes have interpreted this passage. They had rightfully understood that this portion of scripture was referring to the coming Messiah. They also rightly understood that this Messiah would come from the lineage of David. However, the teachers of the law missed a clear point made in scripture. David refers to the coming Messiah as his Lord, his Adonai. This, in the cultural moment, would not make any sense. No son would be called "Adonai" by his father. The honor was due the other way around, son to father. Yet, David clearly states that the coming Messiah, the son of David, was David's Lord. Jesus once more points out how the teachers of the law simply ignored the very scripture they claimed to teach. Jesus shows that their love of scripture, and their desire to be informed by it, was lacking.

### 2. Hate Hypocrisy like

To continue to cement His teaching, Jesus points out the hypocrisy of the Scribes. He tells all to beware of them, for they do many acts to appear to be righteous, but ultimately they were acting to get the adoration of men. For us, this is a calling to hold our hearts to account. What

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

The word of God will confront our presuppositions about it over and over again. We must ultimately surrender to His authority, trusting in all that He has said. One of the best ways we can love God is to cherish and love His word.

### Heart

God deserves to be the King over our hearts. To be the object of our affections, and the pursuit of our passions. All that we do in life is wrapped around and grounded on our love for Him.

### Hands

Live life in full sincere obedience to the Lord. Take all that He says with true worth, and submit to it as the authority that it is. Listen, lean, submit, obey. We as Christians are to devote ourselves fully to all the Lord has command for us.

motivates our actions? For whom do we seek to be glorified through our obedience? Ultimately, God hates hypocrisy. We as Christians should do likewise.

### **3. Love Sacrificial Devotion like Jesus**

The last section of our passage shows us a stark alternative to the rebuke of the Scribes. We see a poor woman who comes to the treasury and offers two small copper coins. Jesus remarks over this very meager sum. He tells His disciples that even though it is a small amount of coin, the worth of it was greater than anyone else who contributed that day. Why was this the case? The Lord honors sacrifice over superficial giving. The woman gave more than she could afford, as an act of hope and faith in the Lord. This is why the Lord praises her conduct.

## Read Mark 12:35-44

1. What recent events have led to this passage? How does the context of what has transpired influence the meaning and message of this passage?
2. **Read Verses 35-37** In your own words, what is the question that Jesus is asking/What is the meaning of His inquiry? What had the scribes been teaching incorrectly?
3. Part of what Jesus was doing in this passage (35-37) was confronting wrong beliefs about who Christ is. He showed how the Word of God disproved what the Scribes taught. When has the Holy Scripture challenged and changed your belief? How were you corrected? What have you learned from going through it?
4. Pastor Jan talked about how to love, there must be hate. What does that mean? How do we see this behavior modeled by God Himself?
5. Scripture repeatedly warns and condemns hypocritical behavior. Why is Scripture so harsh? Why is hypocrisy a sin with such great consequences?
6. How are Verses 38 & 39 tied together with 41-44? What are we to glean from these two sections?
7. What instructions are gained by verses 41-44? What comfort and encouragement?