

ORDER OF SERVICE

March 14, 2021

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message
Worship in Response
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

True Authority

Mark 12:1-44

Follow Me Series

Life Change: We focus on Jesus.

Looking for a story...

Tenant parable shows Jesus is Lord, God the Son. 1-12

They were probably lulled into a false sense of familiarity and curiosity. Then Jesus added some caretakers to the well-known tale. As was likely obvious to all listening, this new addition was a reference to the Jewish leaders. And the treatment of the messengers by those caretakers, and finally the murder of the owner's son...could not have been more overt, or more stinging, to those very leaders who were already beginning to plot Jesus' death. They no doubt clearly understood whom Jesus was claiming to be through this parable.

— Randall Satchell

Mark captures a string of reactions.

Why try to trap Jesus?

Mark captures a string of reactions.

A trap (based on taxes) about political situations.

13-17

A trap (using Levirate marriage) on resurrection.

18-27

A (more sincere) test on greatest commands.

28-34

Mark wraps the inclusio.

35-44

David's statement proves Jesus is the Lord, God the Son.

Those who focus on self receive judgment.

Those who focus on God receive delight.

The background of the slide features a hand reaching out from the left side, palm up, with fingers slightly curled. The hand is rendered in a light, almost ethereal style. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of overlapping geometric shapes, primarily hexagons and triangles, in shades of green, yellow, and orange. The overall effect is a warm, textured, and modern aesthetic.

FOLLOW ME

a study of Mark 9-16

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

I am looking for a story to introduce Mark 12:

- **Full of pitfalls as the Jewish leaders try to trap Jesus**
- **An inclusio**
- **The big, enveloping idea is that Jesus is God the Son, born into humanity. – WB**



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I always felt like a man trapped, enveloped in a woman's body. But then I was born...In my defense, I was young then and stuck in a womb without a view. – pastor who will remain nameless for his own protection

Mark 12

¹ He began to speak to them [the religious leaders] in parables: “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug out a pit for a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went away. ² At harvest time he sent a servant to the farmers to collect some of the fruit of the vineyard from them. ³ But they took him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

Hag

Zec

Mal

Mat

Mark

Luk

Joh

Acts

Rom

Mark 12

⁴ Again he sent another servant to them, and they hit him on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ Then he sent another, and they killed that one. He also sent many others; some they beat, and others they killed. ⁶ He still had one to send, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ⁷ But those tenant farmers said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'

Hag

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Mark 12

⁸ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill the farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven't you read this Scripture:

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.*

*¹¹ This came about from the Lord
and is wonderful in our eyes?" [Psalm 118]*

Hag

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Mark 12

¹² They were looking for a way to arrest him but feared the crowd because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. So they left him and went away. ^{CSB}

Inclusio

**Big idea (often
a story)**

**Big idea
restated**



Mark 12

⁷ But those tenant farmers said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ⁸ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill the farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven’t you read this Scripture:

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***¹¹ This came about from the Lord
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Isaiah 5

**¹ I will sing about the one I love,
a song about my loved one's vineyard:
The one I love had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.**

**² He broke up the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted it with the finest vines.
He built a tower in the middle of it
and even dug out a winepress there.
He expected it to yield good grapes,
but it yielded worthless grapes. ^{CSB}**

*The wicked
tenants*
Jan Luyken
1714



They were probably lulled into a false sense of familiarity and curiosity. Then Jesus added some caretakers to the well-known tale. As was likely obvious to all listening, this new addition was a reference to the Jewish leaders. And the treatment of the messengers by those caretakers, and finally the murder of the owner's son...could not have been more overt, or more stinging, to those very leaders who were already beginning to plot Jesus' death. They no doubt clearly understood whom Jesus was claiming to be through this parable. – Randall Satchell



Mark 12

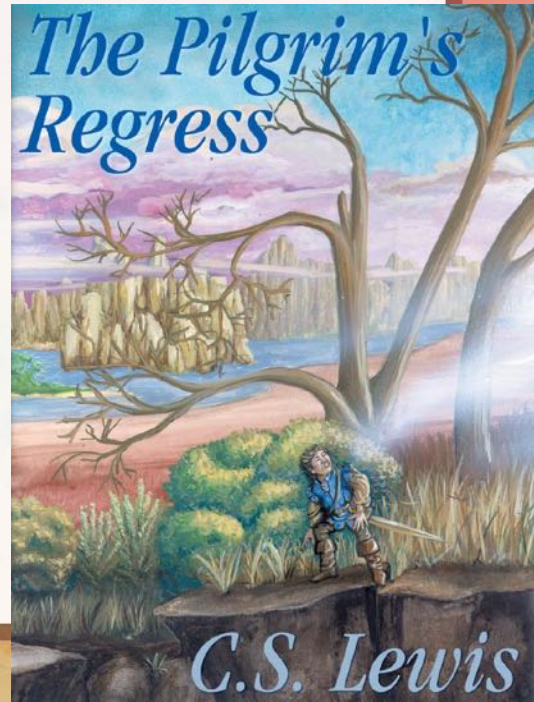
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There is absolutely no such thing – I might even say no such entity – in existence. There never has been and never will be...The Landlord is an invention...Your people in Puritania believe in the Landlord because they have not had the benefits of scientific training.

**– Mr. Enlightenment speaking to John the pilgrim in C.S. Lewis,
*The Pilgrim's Regress***



Inclusio

**Big idea (often
a story)**

**Big idea
restated**



Why try to
trap Jesus?



courtesy Britannica

Setting a public trap also helps convince you that you are actually doing this for the poor fools whom you conquered with your superior wit.



Cultural pessimism is always fashionable, and, since we are human, there are always grounds for it. It has the negative consequence of depressing the level of aspiration, the sense of the possible. And from time to time, it has the extremely negative consequence of encouraging a kind of somber panic, a collective dream-state in which recourse to terrible remedies is inspired by delusions of mortal threat.

If there is anything in the life of any culture or period that gives good grounds for alarm, it is the rise of cultural pessimism, whose major passion is bitter hostility toward many or most of the people within the very culture the pessimists always feel they are intent on rescuing.

**– Marilynne Robinson,
*The Givenness of Things***



Mark 12

¹³ Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to Jesus to trap him in his words. ¹⁴ When they came, they said to him, “Teacher, we know you are truthful and don’t care what anyone thinks, nor do you show partiality but teach the way of God truthfully. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?” ¹⁵ But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius to look at.”

Mark 12

¹⁶ They brought a coin. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked them. “Caesar’s,” they replied.

¹⁷ Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him. ^{CSB}



All exists inside the
authority of the
Kingdom of God.



We live inside the
authority of earthly
kingdoms.

The 2 kingdoms

- **God commands that the kings of this world are to be obeyed, unless they demand subjects violate scripture.**
- **The lasting and most important kingdom is Christ's. Until He returns, His church represents that kingdom.**
- **Jesus' kingdom should be our focus and inform any interaction with human kingdoms.**
- **Unless subsidiary to the heavenly kingdom, earthly kingdoms will inevitably become despotic.**

Many in our society want the benefits of freedom without its responsibilities and boundaries. They want “God bless America,” but not one nation under God.” – Tony Evans, *The Kingdom Agenda*



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SCMP
.tv

CHURCH DEMOLISHED IN CHINA

The misnamed “Equality Act” has one purpose and will achieve only one outcome – the muzzling of anyone who follows an authority higher than the US culture of the moment.



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authority of the
Kingdom of God.

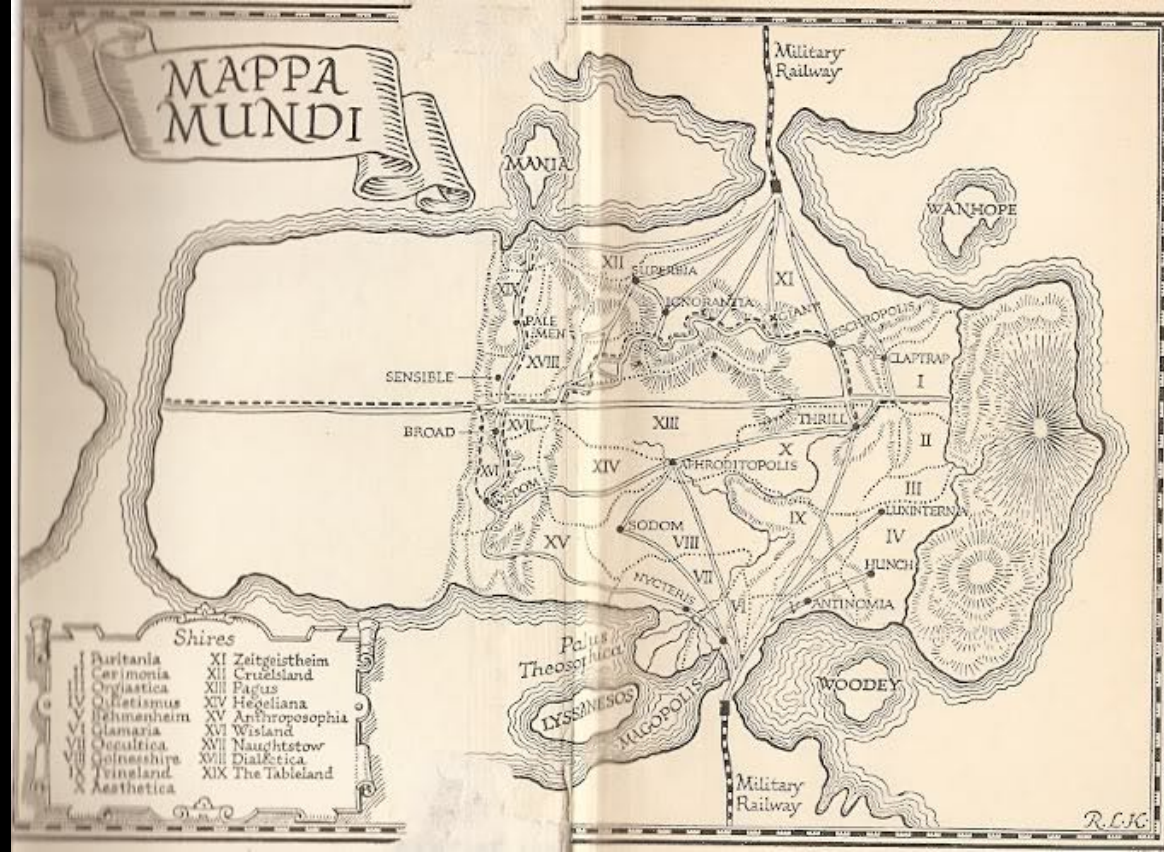


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authority of earthly
kingdoms.

“To cross the canyon, is it true one has to rely on Mother Kirk [church]?” asked John. Mr. Broad [steward of the kingdom] replied, “Ah, Mother Kirk! I love and honour her from the bottom of my heart...If I sometimes feel that I

must differ from her at present, it is because I honour all the more the thing she may yet become. For the moment, there is no denying that she has let herself get a little out of date.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress*



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Mark 12

¹⁸ Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and questioned him: ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that *if a man’s brother dies*, leaving a wife behind but *no child*, *that man should take the wife and raise up offspring for his brother. [Deuteronomy 25]* ²⁰ There were seven brothers. The first married a woman, and dying, left no offspring. ²¹ The second also took her, and he died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise.

Mark 12

²² None of the seven left offspring. Last of all, the woman died too. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be, since the seven had married her?" ²⁴ Jesus spoke to them, "Isn't this the reason why you're mistaken: you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.

Mark 12

²⁶ And as for the dead being raised—haven't you read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God said to him: *I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?* [Exodus 3] ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken.” CSB

Deuteronomy 25

⁵ When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family. Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her. ⁶ The first son she bears will carry on the name of the dead brother, so his name will not be blotted out from Israel. ^{CSB}

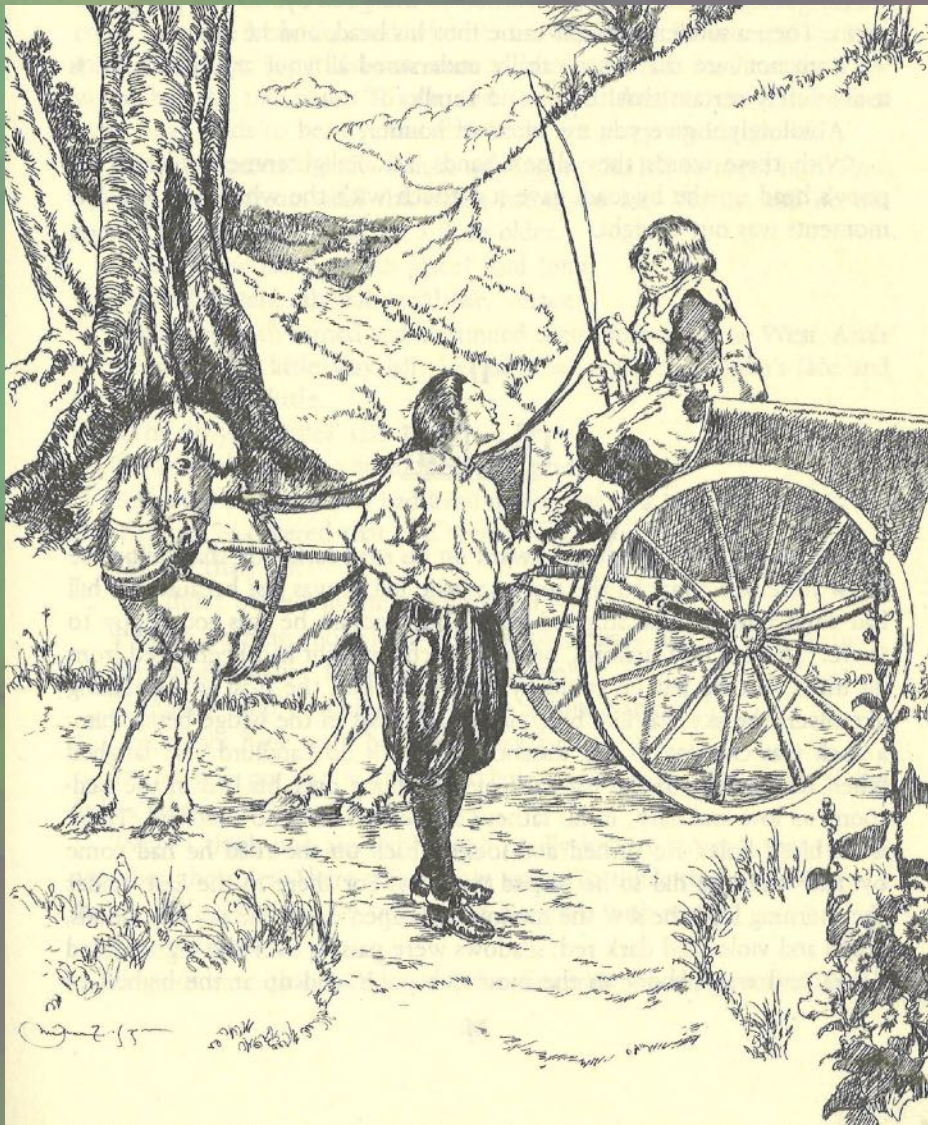
Levirate marriage isn't the point. They want Jesus to admit either that the idea of resurrection is absurd or that the Law God gave Moses was flawed.

Mark 12

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***John stepped away from
the trap to say goodbye***
Michael Hague
1981

**Notice that Lewis uses
the medieval term “a
trap” for the buggy.**

Vertue glanced to the side of the road to see if there were any trace of Mr. Sensible's house, but there was none.

"It is just as when you passed it before," said their Guide, "but your eyes are altered. You see nothing now but realities: and Mr. Sensible was so near to nonentity – so shadowy even as an appearance – that he is invisible to you." – C.S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress*

Mark 12

28 One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which command is the most important of all?” **29** Jesus answered, “The most important is *Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* **30** *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. [Deuteronomy 6]* **31** The second is, *Love your neighbor as yourself. [Leviticus 19]* There is no other command greater than these.”

Mark 12

³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. ³³ And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.” [Psalm 51] ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question him any longer. ^{CSB}

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1 John 4


**⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another,
because love is from God ⁹ God's love was revealed
among us in this way:
God sent his one and only Son into the world so that
we might live through him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this:
not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent
his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us in this way,
we also must love one another. ^{CSB}**

Mark 12

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- 1) Jesus has clearly claimed to be God. Thus, you are literally next to the King.
- 2) If you keep pulling on that thread of logic and biblical reason it will lead you to Christ and His kingdom.


This is [the] Sovereign, the Supreme Judge of the Universe. He is above all else in character, importance, excellence, and so much more.



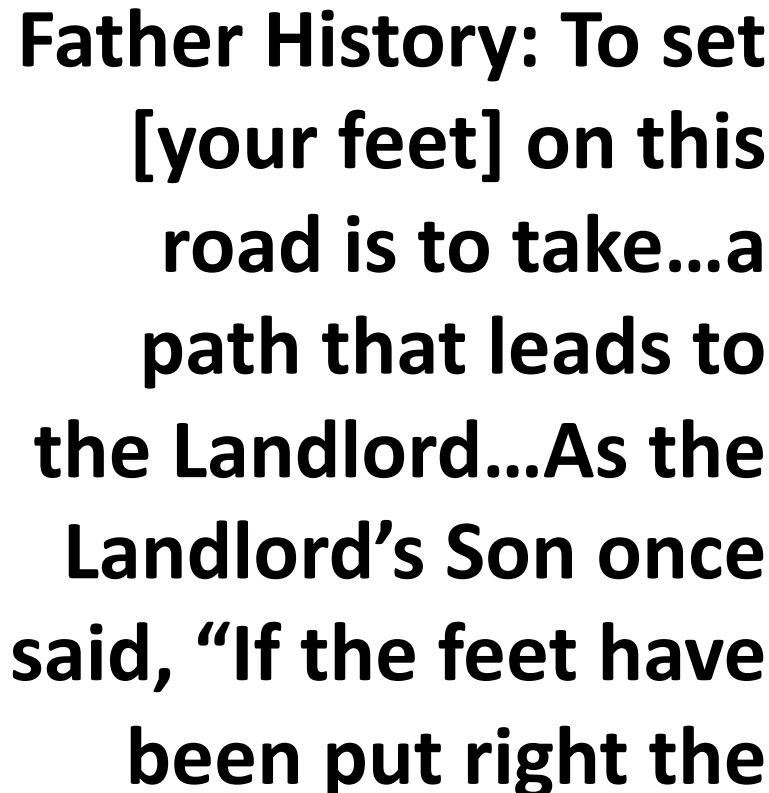
**– Marvin Rosenthal,
“The Supreme Judge of the Universe”**

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courtesy Eerdmans


Jordan Peterson



courtesy The Guardian

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³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he asked, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself says by the Holy Spirit:

The Lord declared to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies under your feet.’ [Psalm 110]

³⁷ David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How, then, can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight. ^{CSB}





courtesy Austin Chronicle



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THE TEXAS COLLECTION

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³⁸ He also said in his teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who want to go around in long robes and who want greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹ the best seats in the synagogues, and the places of honor at banquets.

⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and say long prayers just for show. These will receive harsher judgment.”

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Televangelists with private jets



courtesy You Tube; not recommended

Thank goodness
Christians
aren't like that!



courtesy The Guardian



courtesy Baptist bulletin

Christian judgment is not the same as that for non-believers. Yet at the judgment seat of Christ, I will horribly face loss of reward because I focused on self – just like the world around me does. ^{CSB}



Mark 12

⁴¹ Sitting across from the temple treasury, he watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. ⁴³ Summoning his disciples, he said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had—all she had to live on.” CSB





**I did not lose my hand. I gained
my life back. – Aron Ralston,
May 4, 2007 At SEF**



Mark 12

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Mark 12 Inclusio

**Big idea (often
a story)**

**Big idea
restated**

conversations

stories

reactions

**Wise
application of
scripture helps
us avoid snares.**

**When trapped,
cut off/give away
whatever keeps
us from Jesus.**

A few practices that help me focus on Jesus and avoid the traps try to that diminish Him:

- 1. Think.**
- 2. Worship.**
- 3. Talk.**
- 4. Pray.**

The background of the entire image is a vibrant, multi-colored geometric pattern. It features a mix of green, yellow, orange, and red tones, with various polygonal shapes like hexagons and triangles creating a complex, low-poly effect. A hand is visible on the left side, reaching out towards the center. The hand is rendered in a soft, painterly style, with its fingers slightly curled. The lighting on the hand is soft, blending into the overall color palette of the background. The text 'FOLLOW ME' is prominently displayed in the center-right area, written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'a study of Mark 9-16' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

FOLLOW ME

a study of Mark 9-16