

Journey Through Mark: Toxic People

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 02.04.24



I. Gurus

Key Truth: Be Careful With Influences

II. Beware The Scribes

Mark 12:38-40

38a

Warning

Point: _____ Human _____

38b-40a

Venerated Fools

Point: Don't _____

40b

Judgment

Point: God _____

III. Followers Of Christ

Mid-Week Devotion (Take time to pray & respond to the following)

People in positions of authority have a significant impact on those around them. It is natural to seek guidance from individuals who possess exceptional skills, abilities, and expertise. This tendency becomes particularly pronounced when we are striving for personal development and growth. Learning from the teachings and examples set by others is a fundamental aspect of the human experience. However, because of the danger that toxic people can pose, exercising caution and discernment is crucial.

Be Careful With Influences. Everyone can benefit from mentors and role models, and it is commendable to strive to be one as well. However, it is crucial to ensure that these aspirations align with biblical principles. Despite the capabilities of even the most exceptional individuals, we must acknowledge their imperfections as sinners. Christ alone is deserving of our complete devotion and unwavering allegiance. No one can be considered an equal or comparable competitor to Christ, and followers of Christ should steadfastly follow Him alone.

What does being a Christ follower mean to you? Is your understanding in agreement with God's Word? In what ways does the influence of the world in your life need to be diminished in order to elevate and emphasize the influence of Christ?

Prayerfully consider the role of human and worldly influences upon you. Seek God's discernment and conviction to eliminate those that are inappropriate and diminish those that exert too much sway over you. Affirm your desire for Christ to be the primary guide in your life.