

The Gospel of Mark – Exposed

Mark 12:18-34 September 20, 2026

They have thrown just about everything but the kitchen sink at Jesus and accomplished nothing more than making a public embarrassment of themselves and leaving people astonished regarding who He is.

How an adult can hold back a young child and they are swinging short of the long strong arm of an uncle, fierce and committed, but with every swing, moving only the air around them.

Midway through the day but chapter 12 brings us to the end of the Temple Mount Experience. There is a final lesson and a final observation before leaving the Temple Mount and heading for the Mount of Olives where Jesus gives the Olivet Discourse.

Let's take a look at the final moments on the Temple Mount with Jesus. Mark 12:35-40

1. Exposed Flaws
2. Exposed Faithfulness

Flawed Theology – Misidentified the Messiah

They were looking for an earthly king rather than the Divine Deliverer

Q: How do you make sense of this?

Jesus draws their attention to their own ideas and teachings.

“How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?”

Let's understand – Language

- Christ is the Greek transliteration of Messiah
- Messiah – “Anointed One” – Identified king of Israel.

On one hand, this was right in their area of expertise

- *2 Samuel 7*
- *Isaiah 9 & 11*
- *Jeremiah 23*

Descendant of David... a son, grandson, within the lineage of. DUH!
WE KNOW HE IS OF THE LINEAGE OF DAVID!

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Hosannah! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David...

Son of Man – Represented all of humanity

Son of David – Defined/required lineage

The Scribes know all these passages well and understood the humanity of the Messiah/Christ, but that is where their understanding stopped.

On the other hand, Jesus brings up something that had been there the whole time, but they did not seem to notice or focus on. Jesus is gently but clearly challenging their current position and conviction.

Jesus rolls a grenade right into their understanding of Scripture by bringing them back to the WHOLE of Scripture. They never saw **Psalm 110:1** coming, and yet, with the pin pulled, Jesus sets it down right in front of them for their consideration and forced contemplation.

There are two options for Lord

Master or Jehovah/God

Psalm 110 is clear about which was meant – God Himself

The LORD said to my Lord
“Therefore David himself calls Him Lord’;
HOW IS HE THEN HIS SON (descendant)?”

Someone you will never meet will be, of your life, the supreme authority, master, and ruler... HOW???

John 8:56-59a “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” Then they took up stones to throw at Him; (an attempted assassination/execution) “You think you are eternal?!”

How can this human be divine? How can both things be true?

Easy: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. CHRISTmas

Cults and false religions

Jesus is not a man who became a god; He is God who became a man.

Son of God – Eternal; his human genetics would have been Davidic, but if you could test His eternal genetics, so to say, it was God the Son.

Jesus is fully man and fully God.

THE MERGING OF HUMANITY AND DIVINITY

Seemingly no response!

(37) The common people are usually the one's with common sense.

Don't become too smart that you can't learn anything. (Knowledge puffs up)

Hmmm... Maybe you don't know as much as you think you know.

Misidentified the Messiah (Christ) by limiting who they believed He was.

SINCE WE ARE SPEAKING OF THE SCRIBES... LET'S JUST DIG ALL THE WAY IN!

Exposed Flawed Theology

Exposed Flawed (false) Integrity

Mark 12:38-40

Jesus exposed their inadequacy in Scripture; now He exposes the emptiness of their character. He warned against the teaching but now also the teachers themselves.

LONG ROBES: Imagine a judge wearing their Judicial Robe to the grocery store. An off-duty officer or firefighter trying to flex their position, though one of honor and authority, turn it into personal manipulation and evidence of a diseased soul.

They looked like "Swans regally gliding amongst the common Mudhens of humanity."

Be careful my friend, as we see Jesus exposing the soiled soul of the Scribes; could He be doing the same thing to us? "I deserve, I want what's mine, for some it's not money, it's respect and honor."

LOVE greetings in the marketplaces, best seats in the synagogues & feasts.

(Distinguished guests of honor) (Not servants of all)

Admiration & Appreciation vs. Idolization

Well... The Only thing worse than seeing a worm in an apple? Seeing half a worm in an apple? Hahahaha) (Shiny on the outside, gross on the inside)

BEWARE – you should have been able to turn to them for help but Jesus says to be cautious about them.

Devour widows houses

(Rabbinic traditions and not the Bible considered it wrong to be paid for what they did, BUT they came up with the idea that a gift was acceptable.)

They identified gullible or unprotected people... Scribes should have help them, instead of taking advantage of them. Impress, Flatter, take advantage of, (TO SWINDLE)

Household can either refer to their means of living or their actual estate

As one of their functions, scribes serve as consultants in estate planning for widows. Their role gives them the opportunity to convince lonely and susceptible women that their money and property should either be given to the scribe for his holy work or to the temple for a holy ministry. In either case, the scribe gains.

Georgia – Televangelist

For a pretense, make long prayers

Pretense – pretend, to put on a show Their prayers were a false front and a disguise.

GREATER CONDEMNATION???

Degrees of judgment (all hell is hell... Hotter fires by color, degrees of pain on a chart)

“There was divine rage, as Jesus described them as gliding about in their power suits, receiving the admiration of the masses in the marketplace, sitting facing the congregation with studied religious expressions on their faces. They were proud lovers of praise and position!”

God will in the end judge hypocritical Church leaders with special severity.

Don't give up on God because of ungodly people!

Don't bail on God because of ungodly examples!

Exposed Faithfulness

Time for some people-watching... after a BIG DAY on the temple mount, Jesus in the court of the Gentiles (largest part) and He sits down and seems to take a deep breath.

After such a combative day... this refreshing scene that EVERYONE missed but Jesus.

MARK 12:41-44

Satan would love for you to stop praying (intimidation or indifference), singing, serving, tithing.

WINDOWS OF HEAVEN (BLESSING) EXPRESSION OF ADORATION (WORSHIP)

Q: Is tithing a principle that the Lord has for the NT, Christ-following, born-again believer?

10% is always 10% but it is not always a sacrifice.

(While the instruction to give exactly 10% is not a copy-and-paste command in the NT, the practice of tithes of offering is clearly observed and practiced all throughout it.)

Matthew 6:1-4 (HOW TO GIVE) (secretly)

Matthew 6:19-21 (Earthly vs. Heavenly Treasure) (Sacrifice \$49 for broadheads and sleep)

Matthew 6:24 (God and Mammon) *(Not an intellectual issues, it's a spiritual issue)*

Matthew 19:21-24 (Rich Ruler and dangers of money)

Luke 12:32-34 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. “Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus – Generosity) [1/2 his good went to the poor and any wrong was made right. Jesus affirmed the act of generosity as the fruit of genuine faith.]

CHURCH GIVING

The churches in;

CORINTH – GALATIA – EPHESUS – PHILIPPI – ROME – MACEDONIA - ACHAIA

- **Matthew 10:8-10/Luke 10:7** Jesus' disciples worthy of wages
Provide neither gold, silver, or copper – for a worker is worthy of his wages.
- **1 Corinthians 9:7-14** (also ties to temple in the OT)
 - Vineyard, expect to eat the fruit of the vineyard
 - Tend a flock, expect to partake of the milk
 - Do not muzzle an ox while it treads the grain – written in the law of Moses (OT)
 - We have sown spiritual things, is it wrong to reap material things?
- **Galatians 6:6** Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.
Imagine a farmer being told that he should not be paid for his work.
- **1 Timothy 5:17-18** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”
- **Philippians 4:10-18** Gifts to those in need
But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.
- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.
- **Romans 15:25-27** *Paul telling believers in Rome about the giving from the people in the churches in Macedonia and Achaia that overflowed so far as to help with those in need in Jerusalem.*
- **BIG ONE: 2 Corinthians 8 & 9**

BACK TO JESUS ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

We just got done with the greatest commandment (*It's spiritual, not intellectual*)
Jesus approved and pointed out... not dismissed and relieved

The setting

- (Outer Courts/Court of the Gentiles)
- Time for some people-watching... after a BIG DAY on the Temple Mount, Jesus in the Court of the Gentiles (largest part), and He sits down and seems to take a deep breath.
- *After such a combative day... this refreshing scene that EVERYONE missed but Jesus.*

The Situation

- Trumpets (13): bird, burnt, wood, frankincense, free will. (2 mites = a quadrans)
- 1/64 of a day's wage – 2/3 of a penny. Basically, dropping in a few paperclips.
What was given was set aside for to be devoted to the service of the temple

- **HOW THEY GAVE... attitude & amount**

Wait for the heaviest foot traffic so you all see me put it in.

Imagine, instead of a \$100 bill I get 100, \$1 bills put it in an envelope and BOOM!
Too big to stuff in the tithe box.

OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE

The Sincerity

SHE PUT IN MORE!

Did she put in more money or more worship?

Equal sacrifice, not equal sum/amount

In the eyes of God, those little copper coins, when placed into the offering, became bars of gold.

CHRISTMAS – I DON'T PLAY THAT GAME

Not **guilt** money, but a **gift** of gratitude and love

When you love someone, you love to bless that someone...

Do not be ashamed if you have little to give but give all of that little bit. The sincerity, willingness, and joy bless your heavenly Father more than you and I will ever know.

Don't be DELUSIONAL – sacrificial giving vs. convenient giving.

Don't be at peace because of how much you give, be at peace with the state of your heart when you give.

Don't be DISCOURAGED if you can't give more, be encouraged that you're giving.

Her last act... was to honor the Lord with all that she had.

It's not an intellectual thing, it's a spiritual thing.

There is one other who gave all... the Lord Himself.