

The Gospel of Mark – Sincere Hypocrisy

Mark 11:27 – September 6, 2026

Do you sincerely want what is true?

If I could prove something right that is the opposite of what you believe, would you change your mind?

***Are you sincerely open to who Jesus is and what He says?**

He answers the questioner rather than the question and turns their own wicked plotting back onto themselves.

The hot wing challenge, the heat is turning up

1. Expose the heart (11:27-33)
2. Explain the heart (12:1-12)
3. Enlighten the heart (12:13-17)

Expose the heart (11:27-33)

The temple street fair, farmers market full of inflated prices and extortion gone.

Quiet and reverent for the first time in a LONG time.

Chief Priests, Scribes, Elders (quite the scene)

- **Chief Priests:** Oversaw Sacrifices, service, finances, administration, security, major ceremonies. (Priestly garments, ephod, robe, turban)
- **Scribes:** Bible scholars and legal experts (University professors and attorneys in one) (long clothing) (exquisite and elaborate taste)
- **Elders:** The respected older leaders who exercised authority within the Jewish community

Jesus seems to live His life under the microscope. To some degree, always or at least often, on trial. Criticized and questioned. (Not so different today)

(28) By what authority do you flip tables?

(28) By who's authority do you flip tables?

- **What is your resume?**
- **What are your qualifications?**
- **Who do you think you are to tell me what to do?**
- **Paul had to contend with this in Corinth... Hebrew of Hebrews**
 - God's people will experience the same struggles and would be wise to follow Christ's example and way of responding.

(29-30) NOW – you would expect Jesus to respond with an expression of Divinity and enlightenment but He is wiser than you and I. He knew the heart. Remember when Samuel is looking for the next king and is impressed with the firstborn of Jesse, David's oldest brother. God speaks to Samuel, I do not look at the outward appearance but the heart. – **Ulterior Motives**

ANSWER ME – pause and hesitation.

A glimpse at who is really in control.

God is gracious, God is patient, but God is also in control.

Brings them to a crossroads, rises above their arrogance and ulterior motives,
and catches them in their own trap.

Explain the baptisms

Read 31-33

John testified, Behold! The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.

The Holy Spirit descends like a dove; the Father speaks out of heaven.

CHECK – MATE!

A. If we admit John was right, we are in trouble with God

B. If we admit John was wrong, we are in trouble with people

Bad news... you can't ride the fence forever. PICK A SIDE.

Jesus exposes their heart... ulterior motive... trying to trap Jesus. Who do you think you are?

THE TRAPPERS ARE TRAPPED

August Van Ryn: "It is useless to reply to men who refuse to acknowledge the obvious truth and who close their eyes to Christ."

Expose the heart (11:27-33)

Explain the heart (12:1-12)

Now, through parable, Jesus explains their heart and shows their motive and error.

Parable:

A placing of one thing by the side of another

Casting a lure alongside a fish so that it would see it and turn

"an earthly story with a heavenly meaning"

One of Jesus' Judgment Parables

**Let's put the food on the plate before we try to eat it.*

Jesus will draw their attention to a psalm they have been singing all week long.

(Like Christmas Carols) Psalm 118

The vineyard was a national symbol for Israel.

The very temple in which Jesus was standing supported a richly carved grapevine 70 cubits high, sculpted around the door that led from the porch to the holy place.

The branches, tendrils, and leaves were of the finest gold. Some of the bunches hanging upon them were costly jewels. Herod first placed it there, and richly patriotic Jews from time to time added to its embellishment. One contributed a new grape another a leaf until another, a cluster of the same precious materials. *The vine had an uncommon importance and a sacred meaning in the eyes of the Jews. (Israel)*

The old Maccabean coins had the same symbols, sometimes a bunch of grapes and other times a grape leaf. Moreover,

Jesus used phrases directly from the "song of the vineyard" in Isaiah 5:1-7 a song about Israel. Jesus' hearers knew that the vineyard in his parable was Israel!

Ok... we have plated the food, let's take a bite

READ Mark 12:1-12

Exposed their heart when they challenged His authority.

Explain the heart (12:1-12)

The owner/investor did EVERYTHING

Owns the land, provides the infrastructure, including the vines

The borrower/leaser came into someone else's work

Farmers cultivate, prune, protect, and harvest the vineyard

Keep part of the produce and give the owner the already agreed-upon portion.

Servant 1 (beat him)
Servant 2 (wounded him)
Servant 3+ (killed him)
Servant/Son "They will respect my son."

Jesus

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!

Stephen

Acts 7:52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, *(When they heard these things they were cut to the heart and gnashed their teeth at Him)*

Old Testament Parallels all the way up to the cross.

- **Micaiah** (1 Kings 22:24)
- **Jeremiah** (Jeremiah 20:1-2) beaten and put in stocks
- **Zechariah**, son of Jehoiada (2 Chronicles 24:20-22) stoned to death in the Temple Court
- **Jesus** – surely they will listen. God in flesh.

"Remember, once more, that if you do not hear the well-beloved Son of God, you have refused your last hope. He is God's ultimatum. Nothing remains when Christ is refused. No one else can be sent; heaven itself contains no further messenger. If Christ be rejected, hope is rejected." – C.H. Spurgeon

Denying the Holy Spirit is not being deaf to Him. It's experiencing the almost blinding revelation of God's truth, your soul is caught red-handed, and you scurry for the shadows rather than stand in the light (the truth) of who God is.

Justice will be had and destruction will come...
The foundation is beginning to crack... Fig Tree is withered

They had been singing all week... *from history to prophecy,*
Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
The rejected one, is about to be the most important one.

They went away angry but were not done trying to trap Jesus (12-14c ... in truth)

Enlighten the heart (12:13-17)

Encouragement vs. Flattery

Let the praises of people go in one ear and out the other.

Who do you think you are?

What do you say we should do?

(14) Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?

Taxes (3 kinds)

- **Ground Tax 10% of grain 20% wine and fruit**
- **Income Tax 1% of income**
- **Pole Tax**
Men 12 - 65
Women 14 – 65
A day's wage/denarius

The taxes we pay are in return for services we receive.

I am giving money to my oppressors

The question was culturally divisive enough but pause and realize the setting.

Pause and remember who is challenging and trying to trap Jesus.

Pharisees: Intense nationalism and rejected the idea that they would be under any foreign government, including Rome, down to the money.

Herodians: Sympathizers of Herod and aligned with Roman government.

***"The enemy of my enemy is my friend."* God vs. Government.**

The only thing they hated more than each other was Jesus.

They were not innocent inquirers but conscious liars

Jesus is always a step ahead and a thought above.

(15) Knowing their hypocrisy said, why do you test Me?

“You can’t put Jesus in a no-win situation.”

Bring Me a coin

Tyberius Ceasar around his head abbreviated

- “Tyberious Ceasr the divine Augustus
- Pontifex maximus – Caesar is the High Priest of the Roman Empire

You use Caesar coins, so pay Caesar tax

AND TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD’S

Q: What is God’s? ALL OF IT!

Some are more honoring to the wishes of the government than to the will of God

Wondered: to be gripped with admiration

Are you sincerely open to who Jesus is and what He says? (John’s Baptism)

It’s one thing to marvel at, it’s another to move your life under the will of God?