

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"SEEING WITH GOSPEL EYES" | MARK 12:35-44 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What's the funniest thing you've seen someone do to get attention?

"Clarification: Jesus, The Son Greater Than David" Mark 12: 35-37

Jesus points out in the psalms King David writes the Lord God talks to his Lord. In other words, the messiah is greater than David.

What does this show about Jesus? What does it mean for His followers for Him to be in the seat of highest authority?

"Condemnation: Warning, False Religion Dressed in Power" Mark 12: 38-40

Jesus condemns the religious leaders for acting and looking holy for attention and power. **What's wrong with religious leaders trying to look spiritual? What affect does that have on people around them? How can Christ followers focus on character?**

"Condemnation: Picture, a Widow's Costly Trust" Mark 12: 41-44

Jesus contrasts the showy giving of the wealthy to the sacrificial giving of a poor widow. **How does giving to the church show trust in God? Why does Jesus honor sacrifice?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus gives His last public sermon. He clarifies His authority as Messiah, condemns the shallow spirituality of religious leaders, and honors the sacrificial trust of a poor widow. **Have you been seeking attention with your faith lately? What would it mean for you to believe Jesus is King right now? How can you sacrifice and show trust in God this week? Ask God to give you the ability to have humble devotion to His authority.**

Jesus Journal: Write down at least one thing about Jesus that impressed you in the passage and message.

Mark 12:35-44

7-27-25

Seeing with Gospel Eyes

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-3 Cam: REAL Tuesday. Men's Grill and Chill. Single Moms Ministry.
- C. Slide4 Church Prayer: Join us next Sun 1:30pm in the Agape Room.
- D. *Romulo's dad Update.*

II. Slide5 Intro: Seeing with Gospel Eyes

- A. We find ourselves this morning, still on the temple **complex**, in the temple **context**, with temple **controversies** - on Tuesday. (of holy week)
- B. A professor, describing *one certain Christian apologist* that he knew said, *"This man would not only win a debate, but would annihilate the position of his opponent. Then when he was through with him, he would dust off the spot where he stood."* (maybe great for a debate, NOT for sharing your faith or even evangelism)
 - 1. But here, Jesus the Interrogated becomes the Interrogator.
 - 2. After dealing with the Pharisees & Herodian's traps, the Sadducees bad theology, & the Scribes hypocrisy, Jesus is not just not going to dust off the spot—but then decontaminate, sterilize, & purify that spot - w/bleach!
- C. Outline: First, He reveals Himself to them (*Clarification*). Then says something about their behavior (*Condemnation*). Then contrasts them w/a widow (*Commendation*)
 - 1. This is Jesus' final public sermon of his ministry. More to share with his disciples in ch.13, but this wraps up the end of His public ministry.
- D. Prayer: Lord, help us to see these passages with Gospel Eyes. Not just as words on a page, but as windows into Your heart. Help us to hear Your voice calling us as deep calls to deep (deeper trust, deeper hope, deeper love). To walk away not just informed—but Transformed.
 - 1. HS & Mdle Schl leaving for Camp (today-Thurs). - Romulo's dad.

III. Slide6a CLARIFICATION: Jesus, The Son Greater Than David (35-37) Read

- A. Quick facts about Ps.110. 33 x's quoted or alluded to in NT! (more than any other).
1. He steps on their *self-proclaimed superiority* of the Scriptures.
 2. How can Messiah be both David's **son** (inferior) & also David's **Lord** (superior)? [a descendant was always *inferior* to an ancestor]
- B. Slide6b Ps.110:1 *The LORD* (יהוה yhwh) *said to my Lord* (אֲדֹנָי adonai). [note: all caps]
1. **Yahweh** = His perfect covenant name/not title. *The I AM who I AM*. (moses-bush).
 2. **Adonai** = reflects God's **sovereignty** and His **authority**. The name given to God. *The One who is absolutely Sovereign*.
 - a) Back to our text—we have **Yahweh** calling someone else **Adonai**??? It doesn't say, *The Lord said to Himself Adonai*. It says, (& remember David's writing this) *The Lord said to my Lord*. Who is David's **Adonai**? Who is **Sovereign** over the king of Israel/David?
 - b) So **God** is having a conversation with Himself about *David's Lord, David's Sovereign, David's Adonai*.
- C. Jesus' view of Scripture, revealed here: Jesus believed the **Scriptures** were written by **human authors** (here David). Under the divine **Inspiration** of the Holy Spirit (God-breathed).
1. I'll add: It's **God's revelation** (self-disclosure). **Verbal** (not dictation), **plenary** (full, *not partial*) **inspiration** of the *original manuscripts*. It is **infallible** in its truth (because God is truth/truthful), **thus incapable of error** in all it affirms, and **authoritative** to humanity, for all of life.
- D. We've celebrate/commemorate **Jesus' birth, death, res, pentecost, ascension**, but rarely we give any time to what's known as *The session of Jesus*. (session = 'a being seated', or seated)
1. **We hear**: Congress is *in session*. Supreme Court is *in session*. School classes are soon to be *in session* :(

2. Slide7 So the session/seating of Jesus - *The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at My right hand. Which means, Be seated in the highest place of authority in the universe according to my authority.*
 3. Apostles Creed: *“suffered under Pontius pilot, crucified, dead, and buried. He ascended into heaven. Then what? And sit on the right hand of God.”*
- E. So the central significance of Christ's heavenly session is *His present reign as King*.
1. *Until His enemies are His footstool*. Then He will sit on His own throne.
Mt.25:31 *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*
 2. We have a king who is enthroned **already**. He is *not* a King in *the distant future* but it has started already. He is your King *this morning!*
- F. Psalm 110 spoke to *the kings of Israel*, until it didn't (vs.4-7). Then in Jesus, it all makes sense. NT writers quote material from *both halves* of Ps.110 (king/priest) to support an understanding of Jesus as Messiah. (David wasn't a priest/was't legal).
- G. Paul starts one of the greatest letters ever written, **Romans**. *1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness ...* [David's son - God's Son]

IV. Slide8 CONDEMNATION: Warning, False Religion Dressed in Power (38-40)

- A. *“The Filtered Life”* (explain guy on treadmill at my gym. back pack/tripod/camera, ran a couple min) My point? Think about how people *curate* their **social media**: the best angles, perfect lighting, highlight reels, and filters. But behind the screen - HE RAN FOR LIKE 5 MINUTES!
1. The scribes were like that - they *wore spiritual filters*. They *looked* holy on the outside, but were *using* religion to gain *power and praise*. God isn't impressed by our filters. He cares about **the heart** behind what we do.

- B. The scribes loved *appearances, status, and control*, even at the expense of the vulnerable.
- C. I think we all struggle at times with: strutting in our *invisible long robes of significance*. Sitting in our *best seats* in what we drive - or how many floors up our office is, so people know we are *impressive* [Valet parking lot - self-made title, *automobile placement engineer*]. We love when everyone *knows our name*, *I'm influential*. [Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name. Norm/Cheers]. And we've all tried to *sound more spiritual than we are* in public prayer times. (pretense/pretend)
1. They *wouldn't* have understood Luther who said, "*Grace is like water, it runs to the lowest place!*"
 2. If a person is important **only because** of the uniform they wear, the title they bear, **or** the office they hold, **then** their importance is **artificial**.
 - a) **It is character that is important**. And no one can *give you* character, you must submit to **the HS** to develop it in you, *as you walk w/God*.
- D. And then, they *devoured* widows **instead of defending** them. [opp of *loving your neighbor*]
1. Widows and orphans still the most vulnerable, the most dependent. They're the #1 group that are *still taken advantage of today*, with the worlds latest Ponzi schemes, identity theft, *and* even sweetheart scams.
- E. These scribes portray what the character E.K.Hornbeck said describing the minister as, *The only man he knew who could strut while sitting down*. Movie, *Inherit the Wind*.
- F. Warren wiersbe said, *For 20 centuries the church has been telling the world to admit their sins, repent, and believe the gospel. Today, the world is telling the church to face up to her sins, repent, and start being the true church of that gospel.*¹

V. Slide9 COMMENDATION: Picture, a Widow's Costly Trust (41-44) Read

- A. Now the beautiful and clear **contrast**. [blk/wht; shadows/light]
1. The last group **wanted to be seen by all**. The last thing she wants to do is be seen in giving *such a meager donation*.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, The Integrity Crisis pg.17.

2. Why was it so small of a gift? It's all she had.
3. There were 13 trumpet shape brass receptacles into which offerings were put, towards temple expenses and to meet the needs of the poor.

a) The Mishnah said each bore inscriptions designating what the offerings were for: New Shekel dues. Old Shekel dues. Bird Offerings. Young birds for the whole offering. Wood. Frankincense. Gold for the Mercy-seat. And on 6 of them, Freewill-Offerings. [Mishnah, Shekalilm 6. - Oral traditions, 2nd only to the Tanak]

B. God incarnate was in the temple that day, watching who gave what. And He is showing us *His balance sheet* here.

1. It's not about the size of the gift, but the depth of the trust.

a) Where is Jesus calling you to trust Him with everything - even when it feels small, unnoticed, or costly?

C. 2 small copper coins/lepta - I like that it said she had 2.

1. She could have had 1 and gave it—her all. But if you have 2, you have a decision to make. I think she was 1 coin away from never being heard of.
2. With 2 she could have kept 1 back, but gave both. All that she had ... her whole livelihood.

D. He calls His disciples over and says, look at that!

1. It becomes, *the most famous donation, that has ever been made by a human being, in the history of the world.* Sproul
2. Jesus says, That's devotion. That's what it is to be a disciple. That's what it means to love My kingdom. She didn't give out of her abundance, but out of her poverty. She gave herself as a living sacrifice.
3. In 3 days Jesus would deposit into the treasury of His Father, the richest contribution He could make. He held nothing back. He gave his life. He laid down his life for the sheep. In 2 evenings He'd say, when He broke the bread, "This is now my body given for you." He didn't come with a mite, lepta or a denarius. He came with His body, and said, I'm giving it up, for you!

E. **Jesus redefined** in these 3 stories: Who the **Messiah** is (not *political*, **but divine**).
What **religion** is (not *appearance*, **but authenticity**). What **devotion** looks like (not *abundance*, **but trust**)

F. ***Reminder** Missions Prayer today 1:30-2:30pm Agape rm.

G. Keywords: Lord, widow, scribes.