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The Gospel of Mark Mark 12:13 - 44 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will study a series of short passages in chapter 12 of Mark. It starts with the Pharisees testing Jesus when they ask Him about taxes, and it ends with the story of the Widow who offers the two small copper coins that we now call a widow's mite. The theme in both of these, as well as the passages between, center around our ability to trust God. He is the creator of the World, and all power and authority belong to Him. Therefore, it is safe for us to trust Him with everything we have, and "be all in" as followers of Christ.



Mark 12:13-44 New English Translation

Paying Taxes to Caesar

¹³ Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to trap him with his own words. ¹⁴ When they came they said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are truthful and do not court anyone’s favor, because you show no partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?” ¹⁵ But he saw through their hypocrisy and said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ So they brought one, and he said to them, “Whose image is this, and whose inscription?” They replied, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to 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.

Marriage and the Resurrection

¹⁸ Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) also came to him and asked him, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us: ***‘If a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man must marry the widow and father children for his brother.’*** ²⁰ There were seven brothers. The first one married, and when he died he had no children. ²¹ The second married her and died without any children, and likewise the third. ²² None of the seven had children. Finally, the woman died too. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For all seven had married her.” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Aren’t you deceived for this reason, because 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. ²⁶ Now as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, ***‘I am the God***

of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ Now one of the experts in the law came and heard them debating. When he saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment 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.’*** ³¹ The second is: ***‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*** There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² The expert in the law said to him, “That is true, Teacher; you are right to say that ***he is one, and there is no one else besides him.*** ³³ And ***to love him with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself*** is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered thoughtfully, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” Then no one dared any longer to question him.

The Messiah: David’s Son and Lord

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he said, “How is it that the experts in the law say that the Christ is David’s son? ³⁶ David himself, by the Holy Spirit, said,

‘The Lord said to my lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet.”

³⁷ If David himself calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

Warnings About Experts in the Law

³⁸ In his teaching Jesus also said, “Watch out for the experts in the law. They like walking around in long robes and elaborate greetings in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ property, and as a show make long prayers. These men will receive a more severe punishment.”

and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. ⁴³ He called his disciples and said to them, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴ For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had.”

The Widow’s Offering

⁴¹ Then he sat down opposite the offering box,

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why was the question about paying taxes a trap?

9. a. Why did it matter whose image was on the coin?

b. What was Jesus teaching them?

10. Why did they ask Jesus about marriage after the resurrection?

11. Why are the two commandments given in verses 29-33 more important than burnt offerings?

12. The widow gave two small coins worth very little. Why is this considered more than anyone else gave?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. How are we all image bearers of God?

14. As an image bearer how can we live a sacrificial life to reflect Christ?

15. How do we know God is dependable enough for us to reflect Him by living sacrificially?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES