

# The Wisdom of Jesus

Lesson 17: Mark 12:18-44

April 25, 2021

# Mark Outline – Geographic

- 1:1-13 Introduction
- 1:14-7:23 Galilean ministry
- 7:24-8:26 Northern journey
- 8:27-10:52 Journey to Jerusalem
- 11:1-13:37 Jerusalem ministry
- 14:1-15:47 The Passion
- 16:1-20 The resurrection

# Mark Outline – Good News

- 1:1-13 The beginning of the Good News
- 1:14-8:21 The Good News about Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God
- 8:22-10:52 The Good News about Jesus' teaching on discipleship
- 11:1-15:47 The Good News about Jesus' death
- 16:1-8 Conclusion: The Good News about the empty tomb

# Mark Outline

- 1:1-13 Introduction
- 1:14-13:37 Jesus' ministry
  - 1:14-10:52 Main years of ministry
  - 11:1-13:37 Concluding ministry in Jerusalem
- 14:1-15:47 Jesus' sacrifice
- 16:1-8 Jesus' resurrection

# Lesson Outline

- 12:18-27 The Sadducees' misunderstanding
- 12:28-34 The foremost commandment
- 12:35-37 The Scribes' bad theology
- 12:38-40 The Scribes' bad practice
- 12:41-44 The widow and giving

# The Sadducees' misunderstanding Mark 12:18-23

<sup>18</sup>Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and *began* questioning Him, saying,  
<sup>19</sup>“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that IF A MAN’S BROTHER **DIES** and leaves behind a wife AND **LEAVES** NO CHILD, HIS BROTHER SHOULD MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP **CHILDREN** TO HIS BROTHER. <sup>20</sup>There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and **died** **leaving** no **children**. <sup>21</sup>The second one married her, and **died** leaving behind no **children**; and the third likewise; <sup>22</sup>and so all seven **left** no **children**. Last of all the woman **died** also. <sup>23</sup>In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had married her.”

- The conditions
  - A man’s brother dies
  - He leaves behind a wife
  - He has no children
- The response
  - His brother should marry his wife
  - His brother should raise up children

## The Sadducees' misunderstanding Mark 12:24-27

<sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are **mistaken**, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? <sup>25</sup>For when they rise from the **dead**, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup>But regarding the fact that the **dead** rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *passage* about *the burning bush*, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB’? <sup>27</sup>He is not the God of the **dead**, but of the living; you are greatly **mistaken**.”

- Jesus corrects two misunderstandings
  - The nature of marriage
  - The fact of the resurrection
- Purposes of marriage
  - To fill the earth
  - To not be alone
  - To help each other
  - To point to Christ and the Church

# The foremost commandment Mark 12:28-31

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What **commandment** is the **foremost** of all?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The **foremost** is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; <sup>30</sup>AND YOU SHALL **LOVE** THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH **ALL** YOUR HEART, AND WITH **ALL** YOUR SOUL, AND WITH **ALL** YOUR MIND, AND WITH **ALL** YOUR STRENGTH.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL **LOVE** YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other **commandment** greater than these.”

- Foremost commandment
  - First
    - The Lord our God is one Lord
    - Love the Lord
  - Second
    - Love your neighbor
- Neighbor
  - Who are we to love?
  - How are we to love?



## The foremost commandment Mark 12:32-34

<sup>32</sup>The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM; <sup>33</sup>AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

<sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

- Jesus had answered well again
- The scribe had also answered well
- Why were there no questions after this?

# The Scribes' bad theology

## Mark 12:35-37

<sup>35</sup>And Jesus *began* to say, as He taught in the temple, “How *is it that* the scribes say that the Christ is the son of **David**? <sup>36</sup>**David** himself said in the Holy Spirit,

‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.”

<sup>37</sup>**David** himself calls Him ‘Lord’; so in what sense is He his son?” And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

- Now Jesus asks a question
- Would we call a grandchild lord?
- Jesus emphasizes that the humanity is surprising, not the deity

# The Scribes' bad practice

Mark 12:38-40

<sup>38</sup>In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and *like* respectful greetings in the market places, <sup>39</sup>and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, <sup>40</sup>who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."

- What the scribes want
  - Walk in long robes
  - Respectful greetings
  - Chief seat in synagogues
  - Places of honor at banquets
- What the scribes do
  - Devour widows' houses
  - Make long prayers
- What scribes will receive
  - Greater condemnation

## The widow and giving Mark 12:41-44

<sup>41</sup>And He sat down opposite the **treasury**, and *began* observing how the people were **putting** money into the **treasury**; and many rich people were **putting** in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A **poor widow** came and **put** in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. <sup>43</sup>Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this **poor widow** **put** in more than all the **contributors** to the **treasury**; <sup>44</sup>for they all **put** in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, **put** in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

- This may have been one of the widows the scribes were robbing
- Jesus watched **how** people put their money in
- The size of a gift is determined by the resources and the need

# Summary

- The resurrection is important for our life now
- Love for God cannot be disassociated from loving our neighbor
- Love for God requires all our being
- The Messiah's humanity is more shocking than His deity
- The scribes wanted to look good, but they did evil
- God looks at how we give