

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

49 - The King vs. Religion - Mark 12:38-40 - Discussion Notes

Introduction

Jesus came to bring life and freedom to those enslaved by and dead in their sin. In His day the religious leaders who were supposed to lead the people to God. Instead, they abused their influence by taking advantage of the people while acting like gods. Jesus warned the people to stay clear of them, and in turn provided an example within his own life (and death) of what it looks like to lovingly lead those enslaved by and dead in their sins to true life and freedom.

Observation/Interpretation

- What type of impact/reaction do you think Jesus' warning had upon those present?
 - The common people?
 - The religious leaders?
 - The disciples?
- In what ways was Jesus contrasting himself with the religious leaders who, loved and held to their influence/position (vs. 39) while forcing others (vs. 40 - widows) to lay down their lives so they can live?

Application

- The default mode of each of our hearts is to act like the religious leaders of Jesus day by, creating our own identity (vs. 38), securing a status of rank for ourselves among others (vs. 39a), all while taking advantage of others at their expense (vs. 40), simply because we value/honor the wrong things. How does seeing Jesus act on your behalf in way that's opposite to this (by laying aside His identity/status and permitting others to devour him) change you, by changing what you value/love?

Prayer

Pray that God would transform your heart by the power of the Gospel (good news). That by seeing his love for you, you would humbly receive the new identity He freely gives. That you would then love/serve others as Jesus loved/served you by acting as His representative to bring life/freedom to those enslaved by their sin.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.



A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.