



THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



Sermon Series Notes

Arguing Politics and Theology With Jesus Mark 12:13-34

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The Gospel of the Kingdom of God (starting in) **Mk.12:13**

In this section of Mk we are given a very focused & intimate view of Jesus last few days before His crucifixion

I know for the last few weeks we keep referring to the cleansing of the Temple,....but it is crucial for our understanding of what God was doing with his people then and how it relates to what He is doing in our lives today

1. It is a pivotal point in Jesus ministry as the passion week highlights Jesus making his rejected appeal to His people
 - a. **Highlighted by several days in the temple where He,...**
 - i. Confronts injustice
 - ii. Heals the sick
 - iii. Brings laser focused teaching
 - b. **Occurs just a few days before He is crucified**
2. It is the inauguration of a sustained aggressive attack by the Jewish leaders against Jesus
3. It has transcending implications for believers, and is paramount for us understanding the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ
4. And will lead to the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus that will change everything as Jesus finished work on the cross begins the restoration of all things
 - a. Reversing the curse of Adam's sin
 - b. Ushering in the church age
 - c. And providing salvation for all who believe

So in Mk 11:15 Jesus cleanses the Temple

- Drives out those who were buying and selling
- Overturns the tables of the money changers
- And the benches of those selling doves
- Does not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the Temple courts

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations

- **You leaders have made it a den of robbers**

Jesus is actually quoting Jer. 7: Turn to Jer. 7:3-11

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- **When the temple is cleansed,**
 - the flood gates of grace begin to open as Jesus continues his mop up campaign
 - He refutes all attacks of the Jewish leaders
 - He astonishes, dismays, amazes, humiliates and silences the Jewish leaders
 - He heals, instructs, engages, and blesses the people

The temple that Jesus cleanses is massively symbolic of humanity

As Paul declares in 1 Cor. 6:19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

- When we allow, invite, pursue, fall deeply in love with Jesus and have him do regular maintenance in our temples
 - We become the destination where people can meet God
 - Where the Alien and the fatherless are comforted
 - Where salt and light, preservation and revelation abound

Why Paul says; Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. **For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 1 Cor 6:18**

- **Sexual sin is exactly the kind of corruption that Jesus is cleansing because it has to do with Self absorbed instant gratification, power, and greed,**

H.S. saying to believers, you know better.

- **Casual sex or cohabitating is taking something God created to be the most beautiful, intimate, loving act between a husband and a wife and making it an object of worship.**

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- As we just read. You are not your own. You were bought with a price
- It speaks of a man who is willing to enjoy intimacy with you but not protect you with his name by holding to vows that say I will love, honor, cherish, and protect
- It speaks of a women who says I will settle for the intimacy and the intended protection
 - Because Jesus will come in and turn over some tables
 - Scatter some money
 - Confront the error and the idols

Listen we all sin and God is going to do some house keeping with all of us....but don't premeditatedly sin against your selves and invite disaster into your life

So just like I thought, God is up there with his big stick waiting for an opportunity to whack me

Heb.12:4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Back to the Temple:

During Jesus time in the temple we will witness this contrast

- **The crowd is amazed and delighted with Jesus**
- **Chief Priest and Scribes looking for a way to destroy Him**

After cleansing the Temple,.....same day

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Look at what Mt 21:14-16 says,....Comment

So lets continue in Mark starting with Mk 12:12-17

- **Including Sebastian’s last verse**

They send the Pharisees and the Herodians

Pharisees: Opposed to Rome and to Herod, even though he had built their temple

Herodians were pro Herod and pro Rome

- Politically they were at opposite end of the spectrum

3 Things:

- **An incredibly difficult question**
 - This question is the Bomb
- **An amazingly diffusing answer**
 - This answer diffuses the Bomb
- **And the implications will make their Jaws drop**

Jesus, the Pharisees, and the Herodians all know this next bit of recent Jewish history

Rome imposed all kinds of taxes

This particular tax was a head tax

- It was a once a year, 1 denarias tax for the privilege of being subjects of Tiberias Ceasar
 - A Denarii was equal to one days wage at the lowest end of the pay scale
 - They have actually found some Denarii because they were made of silver, **worth a little less than a quarter**
 - All kinds of inscriptions: **Latin shorthand**
 - **King, God, Son of God, High priest, Divine Emperor**

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- At its inception 25 years earlier there was an armed revolt led by a man named Judas the Galilean

He had 3 objectives:

- Called on the Jews to refuse to pay the tax
- He and his insurrectionists cleansed the temple
 - He kicked out any Romans, gentiles, and foreigners
- Now we are going to let God be our King ,...not Caesar

We are going to bring in the Kingdom of God

- Get rid of all oppression, injustice, and bring in Gods Kingdom

He was attacked, caught, and executed

Referenced in Acts 5:36-39 When Peter and apostles were thrown into Jail and an angel of the Lord opened the prison and had them stand in the temple and proclaim the Gospel

Now 25 years later what do we see,,...

First: Jesus has built his entire teaching around the Kingdom of God, he spoke about it all the time

Mk1:14, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” NKJV

- **Mt, Mk, Luke, John Reference the Kingdom over 100X**
 - Jesus says in all 4 Gospels Repent for the K of heaven is at hand
 - Mt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God

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Secondly: He has just cleared the temple

1 thing left for Jesus to do to complete the story of 25 yrs ago

They ask,.....**What do you think of the tribute or head tax???**

The Pharisees and Herodians are asking Jesus,...

- **Are you a revolutionary????**
 - You cleansed the temple, you speak about the Kingdom of God,.....**R U a Revolutionary**
- They believe they have got Him, they can feel it,
- It is the ingenious trap
 - If He says don't pay the tax
 - He is calling for an armed revolt , and He will be crushed by Rome
 - The Herodian's can take this back to Herod and say you have another loose cannon speaking against the Tribute tax,.....
 - Pharisees though not politically aligned with them will be just fine with loosing this one because it gets rid of Jesus

- **If He says pay the tax**

- He will lose the people they will think He is a hypocrite

When Jesus talked about the kingdom of God he was saying that this kingdom was going to deal with real poverty, real oppression, real sickness, real hardship

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If he says ah it's not that much go pay the tax he will lose the people

The Pharisees and the Herodians want to know,....Are you a real revolutionary that needs to be crushed

- **The people want to know are you a revolutionary who is going to bring in the Kingdom of God???**

But Jesus will not align with either political party

- Yes, He is a revolutionary, but nothing like they have ever seen
- Yes, He will usher in the Kingdom of God, but not like they are expecting

This is a King w/o a quarter,.....bring me a denarius

- We see 2 Kings, Caesar and Jesus
 - One king has all the quarters in the world
 - One has no quarters, he has to ask for one
- **When Jesus says I am bringing the kingdom of God**
 - Not saying I'm coming to replace Caesar
 - I'm bringing an utterly different concept of Kingdom
 - Best way to understand difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world

Look with me at Luke 6:17-26

Power, Success, Comfort, Recognition are qualities represented Vs. 24-26 in worldly revolutions

- Jesus cares noting about power, Success, Comfort and Recognition
- Every revolution in this world doesn't change a thing
 - It just moves the players around
 - Because worldly revolutions only want those things

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- Live for them, got to have them, life decisions are made to get those things
- But our king lost power, comfort, success and recognition
- And invites us into His kingdom
 - Who wants to sign up,.....We do
 - Because this broken world is not healed by Power, or comfort or Success, or recognition
 - If you get them you want more
- But the Gospel humbles us, because if we truly understand what Christ has done for us,...
 - I have to examine my own heart

- I have to be aware of my own sin
- I have to get out of the judgement seat and accept Christs offer to sit in the mercy seat
- I need to understand my own propensity to sin and the blackness of my own heart and Yet when I was at my worst,....Powerless, a sinner, and an outright enemy of Jesus

That's when He demonstrated his love for me By dying.....

Luke isn't saying it's sin to have those things but rather to keep them in perspective so that they don't rule you

In His Grace / By His Grace
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