
Weekly Word

for the week leading to
November 1, 2009

Mark 12:35-44

Read Mark 12:35-44. Note any questions you may have.

Encounter

What attitude does Jesus seem to hold concerning Hebrew scripture? Does Jesus explain the verse he quotes (Psalm 110:1)?

Does Mark tell any stories explaining Jesus' lineage? According to Jesus' use of Psalm 110:1, is Davidic birth necessary for the Messiah? Why might it be important to Mark's purpose to include the saying concerning the "son of David?"

What else might "son of David" have meant in popular political sense in Jesus' day? Does Jesus match that expectation?

"Devouring houses" is an idiomatic legal term for "committing fraud." How are the losses of those widows contrasted with the offering of the poor widow in verse 41?



CLOSER TO GOD - CLOSER TO EACH OTHER

“ When the widow put into the collection box only two small coins, the master did not give her a recompense worth only two coins. Why was that? Because he paid no attention to the amount of the money. What he did heed was the wealth of her soul. If you calculate by the value of her money, her poverty is great. If you bring her intention into the light, you will see that her generosity defies description. ”

CHRYSOSTOM, ON THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE NATURE OF GOD 6.12 ”

Reflect

Who do you think behaves in our day like the scribes Jesus talks about? Are you ever jealous of them?

Have you ever seen an example of giving that was like the widow Jesus talked about? Were you jealous of the that person?

Make it Simple stewardship theme for November 1: Sharing Enough

Do you think Jesus, in praising the widow, is encouraging his followers to impoverish themselves to make offerings to the church?

Can abundance be a barrier to good giving practices?

What do you think it might mean to “share enough” for the ministry of a congregation? to “share enough” for your own spiritual growth and well-being?



Act

Continue in faithful use of daily devotions.

Pick up your “Make It Simple” packet. Prayerfully consider your response.

Speak up for someone who you notice is being taken advantage of.

This week I intend to ...

Next Week

Mark 13:1-13

Closer to God—Closer to Each Other