
Weekly Word

for the week leading to
October 11, 2009

Mark 11:27-12:12

Read Mark 11:27-12:12. Note any questions you may have.

Encounter

Is Jesus in conflict with all Jews? What difference does the answer make?

Answering a question with a question was a traditional rabbinic technique. How does Jesus' response to the religious leaders in v. 30 back the leaders into a corner? What does their answer to Jesus reveal about the quality of their leadership? What might the mention of John the Baptist suggest to the reader?

Read Isaiah 5:1-2. What from this is used by Jesus in his parable? Are there any differences? How does this parable show Jesus actually answering the question of his authority?

How does Jesus' parable echo Israel's history with the prophets? What new idea is implied in this story, and will be made explicit by the centurion at the time Jesus dies? How does God's inheritance come to us?

Read Isaiah 5:3-7. How does this passage enrich your understanding of Jesus' parable? Since the religious leaders would have surely been familiar with this passage, is their reaction easier to understand?

Vs. 10-11 were likely inserted into this parable either by Mark or by a storyteller before Mark, because they do not fit very well. However, how does "Jesus as temple" fit into the context of Holy Week?



CLOSER TO GOD - CLOSER TO EACH OTHER

“ Mark does not regard parables as pedagogical aids to illustrate what otherwise would be difficult to comprehend. For Mark a parable is a way of speaking about God, to which a mere intellectual response is not possible. The only person who can understand a parable is one who is willing to accept or reject its message. It must produce either faith or disbelief.

EDOUARD SCHWEIZER, THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK ”

Reflect

List various 'authorities' you 'obey' in your life. How do they get this authority? How effective is it? What sorts of spiritual authority do you acknowledge? Why?

Make it Simple stewardship theme for October 11: Following Jesus

Trying to trip Jesus up was a way to "find a loophole" in paying attention to his teaching and following him. What sort of loopholes do you look for in your relationship with Jesus?



Take some time to let each person to write at least one "Act" suggestion (below) based on this week's reading. Share your suggestions. (If someone is willing, please gather all the suggestions and email or give them to Pr Bryan. Names need not be attached. Thanks!)

Act

Continue in faithful use of daily devotions.

1.

2.

This week I intend to ...

Next Week

Mark 12:13-27

Closer to God—Closer to Each Other