

“Discerning and Doing What Matters Most”

Mark 12²⁸⁻⁴⁴

People are motivated by many things—ambition, money, power, recognition, the desire to please God. What motivates your daily life and future plans? In this passage Jesus encounters and comments on a variety of people whose lives are governed by different goals. In doing, so also he inspects and exposes our own motivations.

Introductory Question

Q – What subject is guaranteed to spark a debate in your home (or workplace)? Sports? Politics? Religion? Other?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Mark 12:28-34.** What question is Jesus asked? How would you rate his answer? Why?
- 2) How does the teacher’s answer compare to Jesus’ answer?
- 3) Why are these two commandments the greatest? How are they a guide for living?
- 4) Is Jesus final response in verse 34 an affirmation of the teacher? A challenge? Both? Other?
- 5) **Read Mark 12:35-40.** What did the teachers of the law say about who the Christ/Messiah would be? How does Jesus’ quote and question challenge that assumption?
- 6) If you were a religious leader who heard Jesus’ warning in verses 38-40, how would you have felt? What qualities of some religious leaders today do you think deserve a similar warning?
- 7) **Read Mark 12:41-44.** What was Jesus’ doing at the temple (vv.41)? What catches his attention?
- 8) Why does Jesus make a big deal about the poor widow? What “small” thing have you seen or heard someone do that has made a big impact on how you give or live?
- 9) How do people use good deeds and/or religion to make themselves look good?