



Teaching in the Temple

Text: Mark 12:35-44

Context: Jesus seems to be spending much of His time in Jerusalem in and around the temple. He has been put to the test, religious leaders have attempted to trap Him, and He has amazed his listeners. At this point, we can tell that Jesus is aiming to expose the true condition of the human heart. As He continues to teach, He continues to challenge the religious system and what it means to live a life redefined by a right understanding of God, Jesus as the Son of God, and ourselves.

Read Mark 12:35-44

1) Why do the scribes say that Christ is the son of David? (Mark 12:35-37)

Context: See 2 Samuel 7:11-16 and Psalm 110:1 for prophetic references to a coming Messiah through the line of King David.

Why do you think Jesus asked this specific question standing in the temple courts?

2) The proud scribes. (Mark 12:38-40)

What has Jesus observed about the scribes? Why would Jesus say that “these will receive greater condemnation?”

3) The poor widow. (Mark 12:41-44)

What is Jesus trying to reveal about the heart of the rich vs. the heart of the poor widow?
(see Matthew 5:3)

BIG IDEA: God welcomes the poor in spirit and opposes the proud at heart. (Mark 12:44)

What positions have you been given in your life that have created self-idolatry within your heart?

Jesus warned people of the scribes and their pride. Has anyone ever “warned” you of where they see sin in your life? If so, how did they approach you and how did you respond?

In the midst of this affluent culture, what does it look like for you be “poor in spirit”?