

**23S14 Mark 12:35-44 (Part 29) Whose son is the Messiah, widow's offering.**

Hello everyone. I'm Kip and I want to thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 12:35-44 (Part 29) Whose son is the Messiah, widow's offering.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today.

Let's read Mark 12:18-34 (NAS) *<sup>35</sup>And Jesus responded and began saying, as He taught in the temple area, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup>David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES UNDER YOUR FEET.'" <sup>37</sup>David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him. <sup>38</sup>And in His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like personal greetings in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and seats of honor in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets, <sup>40</sup>who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive all the more condemnation." <sup>41</sup>And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and began watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>And a poor widow came and put in two epta coins, which amount to a quadrans. <sup>43</sup>Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; <sup>44</sup>for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."*

Let's pray.

Now let's look at these verse closer, Mark 12:35-37 (NAS) *<sup>35</sup>And Jesus responded and began saying, as He taught in the temple area, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? <sup>36</sup>David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES UNDER YOUR FEET.'" <sup>37</sup>David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?"*

This is such a great teaching by Jesus. The scribes believe God would rise up a human being who was a descendant of David as messiah. Jesus showing them from their own scripture this is not so. Jesus is quoting a Psalm of David, Psalm 110 (NAS) *The LORD*

*says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The LORD will stretch out Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." Your people will volunteer freely on the day of Your power; In holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew. The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.*

Jesus is saying quite plainly, who should have known. David is calling the messiah his Lord, so the Messiah is from before David. The Messiah must be the son of God. This Psalm goes on to proclaim that the Messiah will be a priest in the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was not from the lineage of Jacob, Isaac or Abraham. In fact, Abraham paid homage to Melchizedek king and priest of Salem. Salem means the city of peace. This story is found in Genesis 14. Salem was the ancient name for Jerusalem. We know this from various sources in the Bible including Psalm 76. Jesus is tying the entire story of the Bible together and showing how it points to Him.

Next, Mark 12:38-40 (NAS) *And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him. <sup>38</sup>And in His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like personal greetings in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and seats of honor in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets, <sup>40</sup>who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive all the more condemnation."*

Jesus is stomping on the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders liked attention. They made big shows of piousness. They prayed loudly so everyone could hear how religious they are. They expected special privileges and honor. But they also exploited the poor and needy. Jesus says they will be condemned for this behavior. The crowds loved it, but the Jewish leaders hated it.

Next, Mark 12:41-44 (NAS) *<sup>41</sup>And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and began watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>And a poor widow came and put in two epta coins, which amount to a quadrans. <sup>43</sup>Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; <sup>44</sup>for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."*

I have heard many messages over the years about this passage. How bad the rich are and honorable the widow was. And that may well be true. But I'd like to share a slightly different take on this scripture. I want you to notice Jesus does not commend the widow. She put in more, all she had. It was all she had to live on. Is that a good thing? It is true that the wealthy give from their surplus, they give for other reasons. It is not bad that they give, it just does not rise to the level of sacrificial giving, since it is their

surplus. But it's still good to give. But what about the widow? Is it wise to give away everything. Remember these offerings effectively were going to make the Temple run, but they also aided the priest in becoming wealthy. Jesus already spoke about how the Jewish leaders devoured widows. By compelling them to give to them all they have, then abandon the poor to fend for themselves. I believe Jesus is showing opposite ends of the spectrum of giving, neither is good necessarily. If we give away everything God has given us, then turn to God and say, Lord you provide." It seems to me God already provided, and we are asking Him to provide again because we wish to be pious. Don't get me wrong giving to God's work is necessary. God tell us in the Bible we need to support the work of the Church. But, our heart and mind have to be focused on Jesus, not earthly praise or in an effort to gain heavenly acceptance. God should be the one who guides us in our giving. First we have to recognize everything we have really belongs to God. Then, ask God what we should do. Then do what God tells us to do. If it is giving away everything, then give away everything. But for most of us, God wants us to be good stewards, which means using the things we have been trusted with wisely for the purposes of God. Giving everything to a church or religious organization is fine and well, as long as it is God's will that you do so.

Let's review.

- 1) Whose son. Jesus asks a very simple questions with huge implications. David clearly said the Messiah was his Lord not his son. This means the messiah was before David, even though he is by earthly perspective a descendant of David. Jesus was before the world was born.
- 2) Pompous. Jesus hits the Jewish leaders where it hurts. All the show and pompousness us nothing. God cares about what is inside a person's heart and mind, not the outward show to gain attention.
- 3) Giving. I know my perspective on this is a little different. That is probably because my ministry does not depend on donations. I believe God is in control of everything. I believe God has a plan for everything. I know God can rain money if He wants to, I've seen it. I also know we are told to be good stewards of what God has given us. We must make sure we do things God's way, not our way or anyone else's way for that matter.

**Let's Pray.**

Let me leave you with this today. God does not need a bid show from us, so that we can prove to God we love Him. I have nothing against the big show but make sure your actions are for and to God, not for the attention from others.

What does this lesson mean for you? As a Christ follower, we must let God lead. There is not a magic formula that will get you into heaven. There is nothing you can do to earn points toward heaven. Jesus wants a relationship with us. Jesus wants to be the Lord of your life. Trust God and then do the next right thing. Contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.