



Series | The Gospel of Mark
Sermon | Missing the King – and the Kingdom
Mark 12:18-44

Discussion Questions

HOOK: Why do religious people often seem to get easily upset when someone questions their beliefs and/or convictions?

1. What was Jesus doing in his ministry that caused the religious leaders of his day to attack him?
2. In our text (including Mark 12:13-17), we see three different attacks upon Jesus. The first involves a political question (taxes being paid to an oppressive government), the second one is a theological question (is there actually the possibility of a physical resurrection?) and the last one is “legal” (or spiritual) question (dealing with which commandment is the most important).
3. What are some of the issues that the Christian faces today that involve controversy in these three realms:
 - A. Political (note: don’t overdo this one or create a huge argument)
 - B. Theological (doctrines that divide us)
 - C. Spiritual, i.e., how does a believer love God?
4. Why do you think that present evangelical Christians (in America) seem to spend more energy on giving opinions on political issues/matters rather than trying to understand and unite together over their similar core Christian beliefs?
 - Why do we seem to focus on the political over against making greater efforts to love God and one another more?
 - Do you have any solutions for the above problem?
5. Verse 24: How does Jesus handle the question of the Sadducees? Is there a reason why he doesn’t use more tact?



6. Why does Jesus affirm the law expert's answer? Why does he not affirm it completely?

-How can you tell that a person is "close to the kingdom of God"? What does a "seeker" of the kingdom look like? What keeps people out of the kingdom of God?

7. Verse 31: Look at Leviticus 19:9-18 List the various ways that a follower of God should love his or her neighbor. Which is the most common violation today? Which is the most difficult to achieve?

8. Verses 35-37: Why does Jesus "turn the tables" on the scribes while he teaches in the temple? What point is he making?

9. Verses 38-40: What are the various ways that Jesus mentions that condemns the scribes? How do we express similar sinful attitudes in our service to God?