

Nov 12th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 40)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

If you were honest about the different areas of your life, which areas is it easier for you to see yourself as an "owner" over your possessions and resources, rather than a "tenant?" What areas of your life do you say, "that's mine" instead of saying, "this is God's?"

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 12:1-5. This entire parable is illustrating what God (a man, v.1) has done for Israel (vineyard, v.1) with the farmers (leaders of Israel, v.1) he setup. Once harvest came in the vineyard, God sent servants (prophets, v.2) to bring in the harvest and the farmers mistreated them and killed them. How do you think God is showing his faithfulness to His people in this passage?

Read Matthew 22:4-10 as another illustration to show how God is patience and faithful to disobedient people. How has God shown these qualities with you in your own life?

Is there a time where God eventually has given us enough chances to listen to him?

Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-16 to help you answer the last question.

Question 2: Read Mark 12:6-8. The next sequence in this parable is God sending His only son to the vineyard to remind the tenant farmers who's the vineyard really was. This is alluding to Jesus being sent to save Israel, the true Messiah they had been waiting for.

Read Isaiah 53:3-12 and Psalm 118:22-23.

According to God's will from eternity's past, how would the Messiah (God's son) be treated? Pastor Jeff asked the question, "When it comes to Jesus: will you respect or reject him?" How is it possible to still respect Jesus, but not fully accept Him as Messiah? How does that look in your life?

Question 3: Read Mark 12:9-12. Pastor Jeff asked the question, "When it comes to God's Word, will you receive it or refuse it? This is the message that Jesus brought – **John 12:44-49**. Jesus' message was given to Him by the Father, and His words are from God himself. Rejecting the Word of God is rejecting God himself.

Jesus says in **John 12:50** – "His commandment is eternal life."

How do calibrate your heart and your life around what God says in His Word? Who do you have in your life to help you stay in track with this? How have you seen yourself influenced by the world's agenda instead of God's agenda for the world?

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Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?