

Comparing Hearts

Mark 12:35-44

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. The preceding section ended with the words that from now on, no one dared ask Jesus any questions.
 - i. The Greek wording insinuates that Jesus completely prevailed.
 - ii. Jesus has bested the field, and the debate is closed.
 - iii. Christ now sets the agenda of discussion
 - iv. Christ now ask the most important question and sets the tone.
- b. Today, Christ will show us the faith of a humble heart as compared to the hearts of the religious leaders of the time.

2. Verse 35 – Questioning –

- a. Taught in the temple –
 - i. From the seat of authority of the Sanhedrin, Jesus asks the question.
- b. He asks the question of the Scribes – the religious and intellectual elites.
 - i. He asks them about their understanding of the Messiah
 - ii. He asks from
 1. **Psalms 110:1** A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
 2. Is the Son of David an adequate title
 - iii. The Scribes believed that Son of David was an appropriate term because of :
 1. **2 Samuel 7:12-13** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. (13) He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

3. Verse 36-37 – David bows

- a. David speaking in the Holy Spirit –
 - i. Christ here makes the claim that David wrote in Psalms 110 by the inspiration of the Spirit of God

- ii. **2 Peter 1:21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
 - b. The Lord said to my Lord
 - i. The messiah is much more than an earthly king but the Lord of David.
 - ii. David calls the Messiah Lord and therefore, Messiah is greater than David and not just an offspring.
 - iii. The Messiah surpasses the lineage of David
 - iv. The Messiah sits at the right hand of God not as the Son of David but the Son of God.
- 4. The hearts of the Scribes and the religious leaders are concerned with deception, murder, and power. Christ demonstrates how little they actually know of the Scriptures and hence God.
- 5. Verses 38-41 – A Widow’s heart
 - a. Jesus sees two types of people in the temple:
 - i. The scribes and this widow
 - b. Beware of the false –
 - i. We cannot judge the religiosity of someone but merely
 - 1. Their vesture – long robes
 - a. Full length prayer shawls with tassels
 - 2. Title – greetings
 - a. Everyone expected to stop and rise before them as a sign of their learning and importance – they were expected to greet them with the appropriate greetings of superiority
 - 3. High position – best seats
 - a. The first seats along the wall or in front of the synagogue – the congregation was seated on the floor.
 - ii. Verse 40 – You judge someone based upon their lives –
 - 1. **Matthew 7:15-20** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? (17) So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the

diseased tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

(19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- iii. The scribes were dependent on gifts of worshipers and benefactors for their livelihood. Then as now, some persons exploited the esteem in which they were held to abuse the generosity shown to them by others.
 - 1. They used religion as a mean and justification to exploit others
- iv. They will receive the greater condemnation – false teachers that fleece the flock of God are headed for doom.

6. Verses 41-42 – a poor widow

- a. Offerings to the temple
 - i. Needed
 - ii. The temple cost money
 - iii. Running the services cost
 - iv. Having the ministers there cost – they had no inheritance
 - 1. **1 Timothy 5:18** For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."
- b. The scribes were ostentations, the crowds were wealthy and extravagant; but by contrast this one poor widow contributes two of the smallest coins in circulation.
- c. She deposits two lepta – the smallest coin in circulation
 - i. Her offering is negligible and unimportant compared to the offerings of the others
 - ii. That which was not worthy of mentioning in the temple, is recorded in Scripture forever because God does not see as men see.

7. Verses 43-44

- a. Called to them and said
 - i. Summoned them
- b. More than anyone else –
 - i. Irony the word more when everything to describe her up to this point has been less
 - ii. There is a contrast between genuine piety and pretense

- iii. To Jesus, the value of a gift is not the amount given, but the cost to the giver.
- iv. She remains nameless
- v. All she had – allusion to faith
- vi. No gift of money, time, and talent is insignificant if given from all that one has.
- vii. She like Christ gives all

8. Benediction –

- a. **John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.