**The Gospel of Mark: A Disciple’s Mirror**

***Reflections on Following Jesus . . . F***rom A Handbook on Cross-Bearing

Mark 11:27–12:44

***Messiah Q & A . . .*** Or, Do you really think you can outmaneuver God?

**What’s (happening in) the story?** Jesus silences His critics.

Here is another amazing example not only of Jesus’ ability to hold His own with questioners, capturing them in their own web, but also Mark’s ability as an author an editor. Jesus answers their questions well, and then turns the tables on them to show to all who are listening that Jesus has the full authority of Heaven behind His actions, and that, as Son of David, and David’s God, He has the power to judge who is and is not in the Kingdom.

**What’s the challenge in the story?** Is Jesus our sole authority?

The religious leaders knew the answer before they asked the question. So, do we? As we talk religion with others, many are willing to exchange ideas. But once you suggest that Jesus is God’s Son, that He died for sinners as the ONLY way to God, the fireworks begin. Here Jesus presents Himself as the exclusive authority over the Kingdom, and there truly is no middle ground on the question.

**What are the key elements in the story?** Five Key Questions

***Question #1: Authority, “Who’s in charge here?” 11:27–12:12***

Jesus, like John, is rejected by the scribes and Pharisees, who recognize no authority but their own, not even God’s King.

***Question #2: Allegiance, “Should we pay taxes?” 12:13-17***

For now, we live in two kingdoms, so pay proper respect.

***Question #3: Resurrection, “Whose wife will she be?” 12:18-27***

Foolish arguments mistake both God and His written revelation.

***Question #4: Duty, “Which is the greatest commandment?” 12:28-34***

“You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” –The King

***Question #5: Messiah, “Isn’t Christ more than David’s Son?” 12:35-44***

They stole from widows, but the widow wins! She is in the Kingdom.

**What’s the big idea (main point) of the story?**

While self-righteous religious people sit in judgment of Jesus Christ, He proves Himself the promised Messiah, God’s Son, the only way of salvation.

***So, let’s take a look at ourselves in Mark’s mirror. . .***

*1. Where are you with Jesus? Under His absolute authority or constantly questioning Him? When He returns, it will be too late. NOW is the time of salvation. Psalm 32:1-6; Hebrews 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:5-10*

*2. Where are you with the Bible? For Jesus, Scripture was the final court of appeal on all things. Are you a student of Scripture, or, even after decades you still are saying, “I didn’t know that was in the Bible!”? Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:14-16*