

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *March 12, 2023* | Scripture: *Mark 12:35-44*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What stands out to you on this reading? Are there any details you hadn't noticed before?
2. How do you respond to hypocrisy in the church? How does it make you feel? What do you say and do in response?
3. How do you respond to hypocrisy in yourself? Is there a difference between your response to hypocrisy in others and in yourself?
4. Where do you crave honor and public recognition?
5. The poor widow would be anonymous in our society. Her giving would go entirely unnoticed yet it was deeply generous and deeply sacrificial. In your life or in our church have you seen examples like this widows?

Inward Grace in Action (see second page for Action)

When we tie our identity (who we are) to our activity (what we do), that activity ends up controlling us. It is all too easy to define ourselves by the roles we fill in our jobs, church, family, school, etc. and then become defensive over anything that might threaten that role.

Think about it this way. If your identity is wrapped up in your career and providing for yourself or your family financially, the call to charity might feel like a threat. Is it scary to think about giving up your time or your money? Is your physical and emotional reaction to the thought of giving away money stress and defensiveness? Do you feel free to be charitable, or does it feel like a great burden?

If your identity is wrapped up in being a parent, your child becoming an adult might oddly feel threatening. Does the thought of your child growing up to make their own decisions independent of you scare you? Do you feel free to let your children go and to not manage their lives?

- Discuss the questions above. If they aren't relevant for you, find their equivalent for yourself.
- What is your identity tied to? What feels like a threat? Is it a scary thought to give up control? What feels like a burden to relinquish control over?
- How does the gospel bring true freedom? How can this passage help us let our guard down?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 23:20-23
- Psalm 110
- Isaiah 29:13-21
- Matthew 23:1-39
- Acts 2:14-41
- 1 John 3:11-18

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for our Missions staff as they prepare for our upcoming Missions Conference, that our church might be equipped to share the gospel with our neighbors in new ways.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

ACTION: Spend some time thinking through one practical way you can loosen your grip on the activity you've tied your identity to. Try to do that thing this week and come back to your community group next week ready to discuss how it went.