

Who had a great time at our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration last week?

### **Anniversary Pic 1 (Music Team)**

We had an amazing time of Worship and...

### **Anniversary Pic 2 (Pastors on Stage)**

Connecting as we celebrated all God has done through our church in the first 10 years of Redemption Hill.

### **Anniversary Pic 3 (Outdoor Celebration)**

Once again, I want to say thank you for joining us in this journey to make Jesus known in our city and help people find life in him.

### **Anniversary Pic 4 (Staff Team)**

Today, I want us to begin thinking about the next 10 years.

### **“RHC: The Next 10 Years.” Mark 12:35-44**

My goal today is NOT to lay out a grand vision of what we pray God will do by the year 2030. We will do that. In fact, we are going to be sharing some very important updates with our members on 11/14 and then with everyone in the New Year on Vision Sunday (1/9/2022).

Our focus today is not so much WHAT WE DO, but HOW WE DO IT. It's not so much on WHAT WE DO or even HOW WE DO IT but WHO WE ARE.

This is always God's greater concern.

FCF - It's not always our greater concern. We get caught up in serving and progress and activity, and God wants all of that, but he wants them to flow from hearts changed and ruled by his grace.

We see this in the Bible from start to finish. He made us in his image (and one very simple and very great way to explain that is this): he made our hearts to reflect his heart.

As we examine Mark 12:35-44, I need you to see this...

**The Point: As we journey forward together, nothing is more important than the posture of our hearts.**

### **Mark 12:35-44 (text displayed)**

Each of these very short stories, teaches us an important lesson about the posture of our hearts! #1) Our hearts should desire...

#### **1. Jesus above all! (12:35-37)**

Mark has shown us how the religious leaders kept trying to incriminate him with question after question concerning his authority, and paying Roman taxes and what happens in the resurrection.

BUT NOW... in verse 35, Jesus asks them a question! "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?"

Now, let's pause right here. Jews expected the Christ, the one who would deliver God's people, would be a descendant of David.

- God promised this to David through the prophet Nathan. "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. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
- This is affirmed throughout the OT in places like Isaiah 9:7 (where the Christ will sit "on the throne of David"), Isaiah 11:1 (where he will be "a shoot from the stump of Jesse."), Jeremiah 23:5 (where he is called "a righteous Branch" from David who will execute justice and righteousness in the land) and Ezekiel 37:24 (where the future Davidic King will be the one Shepherd over all of Israel).

No one in the crowd questioned if the Christ would be the Son of David.

So why is Jesus asking this question...? It is because he wants them to see, the Messiah who will be the Son of David, will be *much more* than David's son.

He argues this by quoting Psalm 110:1 (The most quoted Psalm in the New Testament, quoted or alluded to 33 times!). The superscript above the Psalm says "A Psalm of David." That lets everyone know David wrote the Psalm. He begins by saying this:

"The Lord said to my Lord."

- This is the key phrase.
  - "The LORD" - ALL CAPS always refers to YHWH, the one true God)
  - "The LORD said to my Lord." - Now David is pointing to the future king, the coming Messiah, and he calls him "Lord."
  - This is the question Jesus is driving them to answer: Have you considered that the Messiah, David's son is also David's Lord? How can that be?
  - He lands his argument in verse 37: "David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?"
- What is Jesus saying?
  - The Messiah is not just David's Son. He is David's Lord.
  - Jesus is not denying he is the son of David. But as Ben Witherington points out: "It is best to say that Jesus is repudiating the adequacy, not the accuracy, of assessing the Messiah by means of his Davidic descent."
  - He is not just the Messiah. He is the Son of God, as Mark has been arguing from the very first verse of his gospel: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1)

But what is true of the Messiah, the son of David and Son of God?

He is invited to sit at God's right hand. (Verse 36... "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand...')

- The king's right hand was the place of highest honor.
- This seat was a throne beside the throne of God. It is a place of highest glory and highest power.
- Only one person gets that privilege!
- "Sit at my right hand...:"

...until I put your enemies under your feet.

- Here is a vision of the final scoreboard. All of Jesus' enemies will suffer a clear and decisive defeat!
- To place someone "under your feet" is to subject them to your desire and rule.
- God the Father is boasting of the complete victory of God the Son.

The NT writers spoke of this victory over and over:

- Peter on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:34-35.
- The writer of Hebrews (1:13)
- And listen to what Paul said in **Ephesians 1:20-23** about the great might: **“that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”**

### Spirit-Inspired Word

Before we move on... we need to note one other detail in Jesus' words. Look back at the beginning of verse 36: “David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared...”

- According to Jesus, who wrote Psalm 110?
- David? Yes!
- God the Spirit? Yes!
- Why do I trust the Bible? Jesus trusted the Bible. He believed every word, because he believe it was written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to pen the very words God wanted them to communicate. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

T: #2) Not only should the posture of our hearts desire Jesus above all, we should seek to live from a...

## **2. Humble sincerity (12:38-40).**

*Read 38-40*

This gives us a reminder of Mark's style in writing his short, fast-moving Gospel. Mark covers here in 3 verses what Matthew covers in 39! If we were to travel back to Matthew 23, we would find a whole chapter where Jesus decries and denounces their hypocrisy with 7 “Woes!” - warnings of future judgment.

Jesus, the constant teacher, began by saying: “BEWARE” Watch out for... Be warned against the scribes. Why Jesus?

#1 Pride. As my mentor Danny Akin puts it: “They like to put on a show.” We see this in verses 38-39...

1. They “like to walk around in long robes.” (38)

- LONG ROBES, like those worn for ceremonial or festival occasions. They wanted to be seen. They wore flashy clothes, so that everyone could see how important they are.
- And notice, Jesus said: “They LIKE TO...” They craved attention, notoriety, and fame.
- Two quick side notes here:
  - 1) No offense to the priestly garb of other denominations, but I'm thankful I can dress like the rest of you here today. I'm not a robe guy. You won't even find this brother in a bathrobe. No hate, men, if that's how you roll.
  - 2) More importantly, this clues us in to Jesus' dress code. He was doing his shopping at Primark, maybe Kohl's. You wouldn't find Jesus at the Pru coming out with bags of Gucci drip.

2. “...and like greetings in the marketplace. (38)

- Oh, Mr. Scribe, it's so good to see you!

- Oh, look, there goes Mr. Scribe. He's so smart. He knows the law of God so well. He's got half the Bible memorized!!
  - But Jesus says, Beware of them who...
3. "have best seats in the synagogue and places of honor at feasts." (39)
- They like the best seat, because they want to be seen.
  - They want to sit court side and then post pictures on Instagram, so that people can see how big they ball.

Jesus says, Beware of their PRIDE, but that's not all. In verse 40 he says, "Beware of their..."

## #2) Unjust Living

### 4. "Devour widows' houses."

- Though they appeared to be the most moral people, Jesus says in verse 40 they "devour widows' houses."
- They used their influence to take advantage of the most vulnerable Group in society. Now, it's easier to understand Jesus' righteous anger against them. It's easier to understand why he's dropping 7 woes in Matthew 23 against their immorality and hypocrisy!
- Widows needed HELP not HARM! But the scribes slipped in and took what little they had. Perhaps they did this through taking advantage of their hospitality, defrauded them of funds entrusted to them, or charging for legal advice, but Jesus doesn't stop there.

### 5. "For a pretense make long prayers."

- Everyone thought they were the most devoted to God, as noted in their long prayers.
- But their prayers were simply a pretense. They were make believe. They were religious actors. They lacked sincerity.

Jesus says: "They will receive the greater condemnation." In other words, they will be held more accountable for not keeping the law they teach.

App: God is looking for simple sincerity. God is looking for humble hearts (not seeking attention but seeking his pleasure). He wants to see who is serving widows. He wants to see who is praying when no one is looking!

T: Jesus calls out the scribes for their negative influence and example, but before he leaves the Temple, he holds up a positive example of...

## 3. Sacrificial love (12:41-44)

We see this in the offering of a widow. Read vv. 41-44.

Can you see Jesus? He takes a seat. Perhaps with his arms folded around his knees, and he's just watching what is going on...

He sees the rich people putting in their large sums of money. Clink, clink, clink, clink, clink... Coin after coin falling into the Treasury box.

But then... a widow steps forward with "two small copper coins." These were worth 1/64<sup>th</sup> of a denarius (a day's pay). They would have barely been enough to buy a small meal.

Those celebrating the large gifts of the rich, snicker when they see her laughable portion. Perhaps they made jokes... "Oh the temple will be supported for years thanks to her." Or maybe they questioned why she

bothered, "What good will that do?" Or maybe they called her a fool: "How senseless! Now she can't even buy lunch!"

But not Jesus... his heart leaps for joy. He holds her up as the greatest among the givers that day.

Verse 43, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more..." How could you say that Jesus?

Verse 44, "For they all contributed... but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

She has given MORE... Not more in your eyes, but MORE IN THE EYES OF GOD!

Sometimes it's the smallest gift that costs the most.

Jesus holds this widow up as the great example of discipleship. What she does with her money is a reflection of what she is willing to do with her life? She had a heart totally surrendered to God.

This is what it means to follow me. You'll give everything. Whatever I put in your heart to give, yes of your financial resources (thank you for generously giving to the work of God through RHC()), but not just your finances: Your time! Your service! Your love!

*Conclusion:*

In all of these lessons, in this cumulative picture of what we hope will be the posture of our hearts over the next 10 years...

Hearts that treasure and desire "Jesus above all."  
Hearts that live with "humble sincerity" and "sacrificial love."

In all of this, we see the heart of Jesus. Listen to the words of Philippians 2, as Paul encourages us to live with the kind of humility we see in the life of Christ that produces a sacrificial love and ultimately ends with his own exaltation - Yes, Jesus above all!

### **Philippians 2:5-11 (text displayed)**

**"<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

PRAY