

Exposing Erroneous Teachers Mark 12:35-44

- I. One of the difficulties faced by disciples when sharing the gospel of Jesus is the influence of the religious leaders of those being taught.
- II. Jesus dealt with a similar situation during His ministry.
 - A. The religious leaders of the time were the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - B. These rulers constantly opposed Him and His teachings.
 - 1. **Mark 2:18**
 - 2. **Mark 2:24**
 - 3. **Mark 10:2**
 - 4. **Mark 11:27, 28**
- III. But their opposition to Jesus wasn't the real problem.
 - A. He could handle himself, **Mark 12:34**.
 - B. The real problem was their control over the people of the time, **John, 9:21, 22; 12:42**.
- IV. If Jesus was going to break this control, the people needed to recognize what kind of leaders they had in charge of their spiritual training.
- V. Jesus accomplished this by exposing the hypocrisy and error of those leaders.
- VI. It is no different today. People are held in spiritual captivity to vain worship and religious practices by those who claim to be spiritual leaders.
- VII. *If people are to break free from spiritual captivity, error must be exposed.*
- IX. To help us better understand this principle consider what Jesus did, **Mark 12:35-44**
 - 1. Jesus exposed a lack of spiritual insight.
 - 2. Jesus exposed self-serving motives.
 - 3. Jesus exposed a lack of trust in God.

Trans: Let's begin by considering a fundamental problem with these religious leaders.

- 1. **Jesus exposed a lack of spiritual insight.**
 - A. **Mark 12:35-37**
 - B. As Jesus continues to prepare for His death He takes this opportunity to clarify once again to the people who He is.
 - 1. They leaders obviously saw Jesus as a mere man.
 - 2. But Jesus says that David in their own teachings showed the Christ to be more than man, He is Lord, Psalm 110:1
 - 3. **Matt. 22:41-45**
 - C. As Jesus is doing this He was also exposing the error of the Pharisees.
 - 1. The Pharisaical scribes were the students of the Law. They should have been the ones with the greatest amount of spiritual insight.
 - 2. Yet they approached the Scriptures with prejudice and thus could go no further than what their prejudices allowed, **Mark 7:1-5**

D. When they considered who the Christ was they saw him as the son of David, a man, and they refused to acknowledge Him as the Scriptures instructed. He was in fact deity.

Illust: Matt. 18:20 (1Cor. 5:5)

Appl: Many spiritual leaders today are like this. They approach the Scriptures, not with the desire to find out what Gods will is, but to find ways to hold to what they already believe.

Because of this they do not gain true spiritual insight they cannot bestow the same upon their followers. They simply teach and follow their on man made traditions which have no true spiritual benefit.

As such they never see Jesus for who He truly is. If they did would they disregard His teachings in the manner that they do?

Trans: As Jesus continues he turns his attention to why they do what they do. This is our second point.

2. Jesus exposed self serving motives.

A. Mark 12:38-40

B. Those who were held up as the spiritual leaders were in fact self serving.

C. The need to expose these individuals is expressed in the phrase "Beware"

D. Note the description Jesus uses in exposing their true motives.

1. They like to walk around in long robes.
(This is a mark of distinction)
2. They like respectful greetings in the marketplace.
(To be singled out as a person of prominence)
3. They like the chief seats in the synagogues.
(A mark of social standing)
4. They like the places of honor at the banquets.
(Exalted because of their status)

E. Jesus goes on to say this self serving religion is evidenced by two clear facts.

1. They devour the houses of the widows.
(They use their position and work for personal illicit gain)
2. But to cover it up, they offer long prayers for the sake of appearance.
(They keep up the pretense of being religious)

F. In this statement Jesus' exposes the hypocrisy of these religious leaders.

Illust: 2Tim. 4:3,4 (This kind of teacher is only concerned about self)

Appl: As Jesus continues to expose these religious leaders for what they are, He makes it clear that they were in fact an ostentatious, self serving lot.

Their motives are in no way connected to a reverence for God or helping the people understand and live by His will.

They used their religion as a means of personal gain at the destruction of others. But they will not escape; in v.40 Jesus says they will receive greater condemnation.

Trans: As Jesus concludes His exposing of these religious leaders he makes one final observation. And this might be the root of the problem. This is our third point.

3. Jesus exposed a lack of trust in God.

A. Mark 12:41-44

B. The story of this woman isn't so much dealing with the quantity she gave but the quality of her giving.

1. The rich were putting in large sums of money
2. Jesus states that they gave of their surplus.
3. This woman on the other hand had no surplus. Jesus said she put in all she owned, all she had to live on
4. But it isn't the quantity that mattered, it's obvious that what she possessed wasn't going to take care of her needs. The money would soon be gone.
5. She emptied her pockets of all she had and trusted in the Lord to take care of her needs. That's the quality of her giving.

Appl: In saying this Jesus exposes the lack of trust the religious leaders had.

They acted the way they did because they trusted in themselves to take care of themselves.

They did not trust in God to take care of them as seen in their self serving attitude and unwillingness to see Jesus for who He was. To do so would be to give up control of their world,
Matt. 27: 17,18

Con: *If people are to break free from spiritual captivity, error must be exposed.*