

“Condemnation or Commendation”

Mark 12:35-44

10/13/24

Message 32

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Condemnation or Commendation”

- **Illustration - In The Documentary "American Gospel"**

- **They Exposes the danger with... Word of Faith / New Apostolic Reformation Movement**

- **The Word of Faith**

- At the heart of the Word of Faith movement is the belief in the
 - "Force of Faith."
 - It is believed words can be used to manipulate the faith-force
 - Thus actually create what they believe Scripture promises
 - Health and Wealth
 - It claims that God created human beings in His literal and Physical image as little gods.
 - That Before the fall, humans had the potential to call things into existence by using the faith-force.

- **New Apostolic Reformation Movement**

- The New Apostolic Reformation, or NAR
 - They Emphasize

- Experience over Scripture
- Mysticism over Doctrine
- Modern-day “apostles” over the plain text of the Bible.
- At the Core of the Movements is Teaching Focused on SELF
 - One person describes it as
 - Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism
 - It focus, is on YOU not the Lord
 - A false gospel all about us
 - Your Best Life Now
 - How to make people Moral – BUT NOT Holy
- **Illustrations of Abuse**
 - Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Paul and Jan Crouch, and Fred Price Bethel / Jesus Culture
 - **Examples of Abuse**
 - Jesse Duplantis
 - A 68-year-old prosperity gospel preacher
 - Says a new Dassault Falcon 7X would allow him to spread his teachings more effectively.
 - So he is Asking his Followers to Help Fund a \$54 Million Private Jet
 - Benny Hinn

- His own Nephew exposes him
- How his healing service are fake
- How he stayed in hotel rooms that where \$20,000 a night
- **Whether it is by a threat, or by a promise**
 - These so-called ministers are using **Manipulation Tactics** to extort money from God's people
- **This is NOTHING NEW**
 - This is What our Text is all about this morning
 - **1st Jesus warned His Disciples**

Mark 12:38 (NKJV)

38 Then He said to them in His teaching, “*Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces,*

Luke 20:45 (NKJV)

45 Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples,

- He directed His comments to His Disciples
 - BUT also to those around Him
- So - Beware of the scribes...
 - Who love attention (It's ALL about me)
 - Who devour widow's houses.
- Jesus' words would have seemed radical to those listening
 - Because the Scribes were

- Considered pillars of the community
- Recognized authorities on the interpretation of God's Word
- Revered, and feared, by the common people
- Were the doctors of the Law of God
- **2nd Purpose for Exposing Them?**
 - Let me Show you the RIGHT example!
 - He tells them don't look at the scribes as examples

• **Review**

- **Now Remember - Context**
 - **Jesus has come into Jerusalem – Celebrated as the Messiah**
 - Examined the Temple
 - Cleanses the Temple – Den of Thieves
 - Then they question Jesus' authority
 - **Jesus Gave the Parable of the Vinedresser**
 - These leaders knew was about them
 - That they have rejected the CHIEF Cornerstone – Jesus
 - **SO Now theses leaders are all joining together –**
 - To attempt to TRAP Jesus with questions
 - **Now in the rest of Chapter 12 we will see that lived out!**

- There will be
 - 3 complicated questions - 3 simple answers
- 1st The Pharisees & Herodians ask
 - A Political Question - Pay Taxes?
- 2nd The Sadducees ask
 - A Hypothetical Question - Whose Wife?
- 3rd The Scribe asks
 - Which Is the First Commandment?
- **Last Week - “Not Far From The Kingdom” (Mark 12:28-34)**
 - The rest of this chapter hinges on the last study

Mark 12:29–31 (NKJV)

29 Jesus answered him, *“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

30 *And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.*

31 *And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

- It is Important NOT to forget CONTEXT
- Because what Jesus is Going to show us, is a contrast here
 - The Condemnation
 - Is to those who say that God is number one in their lives BUT in reality, They are not even close
 - The Condemnation

- The Widow who showed that God was indeed Number one in her life – A life FULLY Surrendered

• **So this Morning Lets take a look at these 2 Important Truths**

- Condemnation vs. 35-40
- Commendation vs. 41-44

Condemnation vs. 35-40

• **First: Their Ignorance Exposed vs. 35-37**

- **1st He Declares to be the Messiah v. 35**

Mark 12:35 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, *“How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?”*

- **1st “How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David?”**

- The word “Christ” is a title, not a name.
 - It’s the Greek form of the word “Messiah”
 - The prophesied deliverer of the nation of Israel.
 - Everybody in the audience understood that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.
 - God told David that the Messiah would be his descendent.

2 Samuel 7:12–13 (NKJV)

12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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.

Jeremiah 23:5 (NKJV)

5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

- The coming king would be a descendant of David.

▪ **2nd Jesus is quoting from Psalm 110 in v. 36**

Mark 12:36 (NKJV)

36 *For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’*

• **Psalm 110**

- Is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament
- A well-known Messianic Psalm
- Jesus is quoting directly from Psalm 110:1

• **The LORD said to my Lord (Psalm 110:1a)**

Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)

1 The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

- In the Hebrew Old Testament
 - David used two different Hebrew words for “Lord”.
- First LORD – Yahweh –
 - Means - “The existing One”; this is God’s name.
- Second Lord – ‘Adown – lord, master
 - One who is the supernatural master over all, a title of the true God

- You could translate the first phrase of Psalm 110 as,
 - “Yahweh said to my Master...”
 - The idea is that David has overheard a conversation in heaven.
 - God (Yahweh) is speaking to someone whom David calls his “Lord” or “Master”.
 - God is telling this person to sit at God’s right hand until God takes care of this “Master’s” enemies.

- **Sit at My right hand (Psalm 110:1b)**

Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)

1 The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

- The chair on the right-hand side of a king’s throne was reserved for someone with **great influence** on the king.
- So who would God allow to sit at His right hand? –
 - **The Messiah.**
- Paul wrote to the Romans,

Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- Later in the week, Jesus will be on trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin.

Mark 14:61–64 (NKJV)

61 But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

62 Jesus said, "*I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.*"

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses?"

64 You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

- Jesus was laying claim to Psalm 110.
- He's saying that He will be the one sitting at God's right hand.
- He was claiming to be the Messiah.

- **Till I make Your enemies Your footstool v. 43**

Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)

1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ***Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.***"

- Turning enemies into a "footstool"
 - Means that an enemy is conquered, humiliated, and used for furniture.
 - The idea is that Jesus will be in heaven, sitting at God's right hand, until it is time for Him to come back and set up His kingdom on earth.
- **3rd Therefore, David calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" v. 37**

Mark 12:37 (NKJV)

37 *Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly.*

- **The Messiah is indeed a "Son of David"**

- The rightful heir to the throne through the biological genealogy of His mother Mary.
- **The Messiah is also the “Son of God”**
 - Because of the virgin birth, God is His Father
 - Jesus is God in flesh.
 - Jesus was both David’s “son” and David’s Lord.
 - Jesus is the Messiah – God

● **Second: Their Arrogance Exposed vs. 38-40**

- **1st They Had An Appetite For ATTENTION v. 38**
 - **1st Beware!!! v. 38a**

Mark 12:38 (NKJV)

38 Then He said to them in His teaching, “**Beware of the scribes**, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces,

- Jesus wants us to beware of them...
 - He used the scribes as His example
- We see these Warnings throughout the Scriptures.
 - Yet the modern church considered it negative if you expose others for their false teaching or lifestyle.
- **2nd Long Robs v. 38b**

Mark 12:38 (NKJV)

38 Then He said to them in His teaching, “**Beware of the scribes**, **who desire to go around in long robes**, love greetings in the marketplaces,

- The RULE Was

- That their robes should just barely touch the ground
- Instead, they added length to their robes,
- Until in effect they had a train following them as they walked along.
- The Problem with that
 - 1st The scribes were men of leisure, who watched while others worked.
 - Long Robe meant they could not work in them
 - 2nd Drew Attention to themselves
 - Set themselves above others
 - You always notice people who are dressed inappropriately.
- **3rd Application – Be Concerned About Leaders**
 - Who are Lazy
 - Leaders who is not willing to work
 - Illustration
 - Over the year's I have seen people want to be in ministry because they don't think they will have to work as hard...
 - They HAVE a SERVE me Attitude (because I am a leader)
 - The opposite is the case WE MUST WORK HARDER

- Who draw attention to themselves – no matter how they do it
 - They want to build a following for themselves (look to ME)
 - Disciples should always want to decrease, so that Jesus can increase.
 - As a pastor my job is NOT to point people to me it's to point them to Jesus
- 2nd They Had An Appetite For **AUTHORITY** v. 38c

Mark 12:38 (NKJV)

38 Then He said to them in His teaching, *"Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces,*

▪ **1st Context**

- Their robes singled them out
 - Causing people to pay attention to them
 - Once you saw them, you were supposed to greet them and BOW
- When you bow to someone
 - It symbolized that they are over you
 - They are your authority.

▪ **2nd Application - Concern In today's Church**

- Roman Catholic Church
 - The bishops wear ornate robes and people are expected to bow to them by kissing their ring
- Protestant Christians

- Special Greetings - Most holy Reverend Dr. Jones
 - Why any Pastor would allow themselves to be called Reverend I have no idea
 - The word Reverend
 - Can mean deserving reverence...AWESOME
 - Awesome Jeff...nice ring to it don't you think...NOT
 - Anyone who address me as Reverend doesn't know me very well
 - It's God and God alone that is to be Revered
 - A Pastor is Just a man
- Shepherding Movement
 - The Shepherding Movement is a controversial method of church leadership that grew out of the Charismatic movement in the 1970s.
 - They
 - Claims too much authority over the lives of the members
 - Used cult-like manipulation and intimidation tactics and its emphasis on the non-biblical idea of a "spiritual covering."
 - NO major decisions

- Were made without first consulting with one's shepherd—marriage and career choices included.

- **A Need to Be Biblical**

- 1st Pastors are JUST men
 - Who have been called by God to FEED the sheep
 - To Equip for the work of Ministry
 - To Disciple
 - WE are Not the FINAL say in people's lives...the Lord is
- 2nd Be Respectful / Be in Prayer for pastors

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- **3rd They Had An Appetite For Acknowledgment v. 39**

Mark 12:39 (NKJV)

39 the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts,

- **1st Context**

- These were the seats situated in front of the boxes
 - Containing the scrolls of Scripture, facing the congregation
 - By virtue of being seated there, everyone must acknowledge that they were spiritual

- **2nd Application**

- BE careful of people who always want to be
 - In front of others
 - Who want immediately to be acknowledged
- If you ask them to wait...or get involved serving quietly, maybe behind the scenes...they sometimes leave
 - Or they may find ways of promoting their own agenda within the fellowship
- 4th They Had An Appetite For Being Apart v. 39b

Mark 12:39 (NKJV)

39 *the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts,*

▪ **1st Context**

- The best seats at feasts were those closest to the host
- If your seated there, you would receive special treatment...you were set apart from others

▪ **2nd Application**

- Leaders – Must be willing to BE SERVANTS – NO SPECIAL TREATMENT

- 5th They Had An Appetite For Taking Advantage v. 40a

Mark 12:40 (NKJV)

40 *who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."*

▪ **1st Context**

- Scribes were also called lawyers

- They weren't lawyers in the same sense of our word
- But they were often asked to handle certain legal matters
- They would often handle the finances of widows
 - But they would take advantage of them
 - Given an opportunity, they would equally exploit the rich
- **2nd Application**
 - Those who seek to take advantage of the generosity of believers – whether you have a lot or little
 - Pastor who try and make a name for themselves on the backs of others
- **6th They Had An Appetite For Asserting Themselves v. 40b**

Mark 12:40 (NKJV)

40 *who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.*

- **1st Context**
 - Their long prayers were a pretense.
 - Meaning they had the outward appearance of being devout disciples
 - But inwardly they had all these carnal appetites we've just mentioned
 - So how long is too long in regard to prayers...
 - The issue is the heart

- **2nd Application**

- BE REAL
 - Before Jesus
 - Before Others

Commendation vs. 41-44

- **First: God Sees Things That Are Done No Matter How Insignificant vs. 41-42**

Mark 12:41–42 (NKJV)

41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.

42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

Luke 21:1–2 (NKJV)

1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury,
2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.

- **1st God Sees**

- **Context**

- So Jesus looks up and saw
 - The rich putting their gifts into the treasury
 - A poor widow putting in two mites
- A treasury in the Court of the Women, in the Temple
 - Where thirteen offering boxes were kept
 - Each of them was labeled for a different cause or need
 - They were large at the base

- But had a narrow neck and opening
- So that you had to put in your offering a little at a time
- Thus, everyone would know how generous you were OR NOT
- A mite was about 1/8th of a penny! – **SHOW Pic**
 - It was the least valuable coin in circulation
 - The rich were parading by, taking a lot of time putting their coins into the various boxes
 - Then a widow came and quickly dropped her two mites
 - Everyone else noticed the wealthy; Jesus noticed the widow

▪ **God SEES the Heart**

- While Man only sees what is on the outside GOD KNOWS the REAL HEART

Proverbs 15:3 (NKJV)

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

- How DOES OUR HEARTS LOOK TO HIM
- Do we have PURE MOTIVES?

• Second: Jesus Measures Littleness And Greatness Very Differently v. 43a

Mark 12:43 (NKJV)

43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, *“Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;*

Luke 21:3 (NKJV)

3 So He said, *“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;*

- **1st The Way the World sees It**
 - The ATTITUDE and ACTIONS of a poor woman might be thought of as trivial in the minds of the great of this world...
- **2nd The Way God sees It**
 - But this carried tremendous weight to the Lord
 - Jesus looks at what a man IS.....
 - NOT at what a man HAS
 - Our World is consumed with what men have
 - Jesus concerned about Who He is – CHARACTER
- **3rd Application - Faithfulness and Obedience is What God Values**
 - This is what God wants

1 Samuel 15:22–24 (NKJV)

22 So Samuel said: *“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, *“I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.*

- Illustration How do we measure success

- A Cup of Cold water in His name
- Big Church equals successful church
 - It is Critical we get past this worldly view

• **Third: Jesus Is More Interested With Motive Than Amount v. 43b**

Mark 12:43 (NKJV)

43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, *“Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;*

Luke 21:3 (NKJV)

3 So He said, *“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;*

- **Notice v. 3 again ...this poor widow has put in more than all...**
 - He did NOT say that she cast in more than any one of them
 - He said that she cast in MORE than ALL of them combined.
 - She gave her ALL to the Lord trusting Him to take care of her
- **2nd Application**
 - The issue here is NOT Money...
 - The Issue is Does Jesus Have ALL MY LIFE
 - Which will reflect in how you live your life
 - This area – How you spend you money...

• **Fourth: Everyone Has At Least Two Mites To Give The Lord v. 44**

Mark 12:44 (NKJV)

44 *for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”*

- **We all have a Body and a Soul**

- There is a practical illustration here of the spiritual principle of daily offering to God your life as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Closing

- **Which One describes us in our Chirstian Life?!**

- The Scribes
- The Widow

- **Pastoral Heart to see everyone grow!**

- Ask Yourself are you a Prisoner or Parolee for Christ (Ephesians 4)
 - Explain the difference between

- **Close With – Hymn “When I survey the wondrous cross”**

- When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.
- See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,

or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.