

Sermon Questions

January 30, 2022

Mark 12:28-44

1. What surprised you most about this passage? Was the story told in a way that was different than you had heard it previously?
2. The commands to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbour as ourselves are summarized as the heartbeat of God's law. Where do you see this ideal embodied in the people you know? Where do you see this embodied in and through Sardis Community Church? What would it look like for you to move closer to these ideals of loving God with your whole self and loving your neighbour as yourself?
3. In answering the teacher of the law we find out a few things. First, the teacher of the law that Jesus speaks about seems like a neutral observer asking a genuine question of Jesus. Near the end of their interaction, Jesus tells this man that is isn't far from the kingdom. Right after this episode, Jesus turns around and takes on the rest of the teachers of the law publicly and showing how they are often consumed with fame, wealth, fashion, and power rather than the commands to love God and neighbour. What do you make of these two interactions that happen back to back? How do we reserve judgement and not paint every person with the same brush, but also critique systems of injustice?
4. There have been a few recent controversies in some evangelical circles where one side argues that churches ought to "stick to preaching the gospel" and not get overly involved in concerns of justice. Given our sermon series in the Gospel according to Mark (which consistently makes reference to injustice in Exodus, Malachi, and Isaiah) how would you respond to those who try to separate the gospel from justice?
5. It was customary for people to come to the temple and give a tenth of their earnings, or what we commonly call a tithe. This woman puts in everything she has to live on. How do you navigate these competing ideas about giving, generosity, and money? How might you practice generosity this week?