

MARCH 17, 2024

ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?

Pastor Cameron Contrestano // Mark 12:35-40



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



35 And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? 36 David himself said in the Holy Spirit,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet."

37 David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

38 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the marketplaces, 39 and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, 40 who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."



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GROW IN THE WORD

- How did Jesus' questions about the Messiah challenge misguided views about him? See John 6:15; 18:36-37.

- How do we ensure that our view of Jesus' identity and the expectations we have of him are accurate and not based on our wants and needs?

02. Jesus warned the crowds about the scribes, describing some of their public behavior. He pointed out how they sought recognition and status yet also exploited widows for their own gain. Jesus said they would receive greater condemnation for their actions (v. 38-40).

- Describe in your own words what Jesus accused the scribes of doing. See also Luke 11:39-44; Matthew 23:5-8.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share highs and lows from the previous week. Keep it short and spend more time discussing #2 below.
- Discuss the second question in the Reflect/Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond. It would be helpful for leaders to go first.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 2-3 questions that include cross-references. Pick the questions that stand out to you, or that you believe would be most helpful for your group.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on the application questions in each section. These are the questions without cross-references. Pray and invite God to lead as you discuss application together.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.