

Gospel of Mark

Lesson 55 “What True Faith Looks Like”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on “The Gospel of Mark” this morning.

A. Review - This series comes from **Galatians 2:20**. It’s now Christ living in us so in order for us to understand how He lives in us, it’s helpful to study how He lived on earth.

B. Last week we saw Jesus say the greatest commandment under the Law was to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and to love your neighbor as yourself. But in **John 13:34**, Jesus gave us a new commandment. **Instead of our love being measured by how well we can love, Jesus made His love for us the pattern: “Love one another as I have loved you.”**

Today, we’re shifting from **the love of God—which is grace—to faith**, contrasting the scribes with a widow who gave two mites to see what **true faith looks like**. But faith isn’t the opposite of grace. **Faith is our response to grace.**

Grace is what God has provided; faith is how we receive what He’s already provided.

II. What True Faith Looks Like

A. Mark 12:35-37 “How Can Christ Be the Son of David?”

1. The religious leaders tried every question they could think of to trap Jesus and He answered them all. So Jesus turns the tables and asks a question from **Psalm 110:1** they should have been asking all along: **Who is the Messiah?** They knew He would be David’s Son, but they missed the bigger truth: **Jesus was David’s Son and Lord.**
2. The irony is the religious leaders loved David because he was a man after God’s own heart, but David wasn’t anything like them. He wasn’t religious. His worship was passionate, but his life was messy, and his failures were public. **They loved David’s reputation, but they didn’t have David’s heart.**
3. David was a man after God’s own heart, not because he was perfect—he made some huge mistakes. But he kept running back to God because he knew God was merciful, and because he received mercy, he showed mercy to others.

B. Mark 12:38-40 The Pretense of the Pharisees - What Faith Doesn’t Look Like

1. The Law (**Numbers 15:38-40**) commanded them to wear these garments as a visible reminder they belonged to God, but their focus shifted and what was supposed to remind them of God became a way to make sure everybody else noticed how spiritual they were. (Manifestation of Pride).

2. **Matthew 23:5** they made their phylacteries large. A phylactery was a small leather box containing Scripture, worn on the forehead or arm as a reminder of God's Word. Instead of doing this as a way to remember the word, they did it to show off. (Pride)
3. They wanted recognition, the best seats at the synagogue, and made long prayers for show, but financially exploited widows.
 - a. Posting the Bible and coffee picture on Instagram while treating your spouse terribly before you leave for work.
 - b. Politicians who pray publically, but then vote opposite the Bible.
4. We still see this today—ministries where **everything revolves around the leader and their "apostolic anointing."** People are told to sow into that anointing, give to receive an impartation, or connect their money to a breakthrough.
 - a. An apostle's anointing is for their assignment—to break new ground on the mission field, plant churches, and establish new works.
 - b. Paul dealt with this issue in Corinth with the "super-apostles." These were people who wanted a following and deceived people and pulled them away from Paul, their true spiritual father, because they wanted following and to build a platform for themselves. **Paul didn't care about reputation; he knew God would build his ministry if he built people. 2 Corinthians 10:17-18 NIV.**

C. Mark 12:41-44 The Contrast - What True Faith Looks Like

1. Jesus sat across from the offering boxes and watched people give and what caught His attention wasn't the biggest gift in the room, but the smallest. It was the smallest, but it was also their greatest because the woman gave all she have!
2. This is why God uses percentages (the tithe)—**percentages reveal the heart. God's not impressed by the size** of the gift. He looks at the heart behind it and whether we're holding anything back. Ex: Someone making \$1,000,000 vs. \$50,000.
3. Giving isn't exclusive to money. It also includes our time and talents.
 - a. Time - Do we hold anything back? God wants us! For Him! Because He loves us!
 - b. Talents - People have gifts God gave them they don't yield to Him, but keep a form of godliness! This isn't genuine faith!
4. Any part of our heart we withhold because we are trying to build something God isn't building, is something we won't get eternal credit for anyway. Why?
 - a. Solution - **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV**
 - b. Do what David did and run to the presence of God and become overwhelmed by His love!

III. Conclusion - True faith isn't about image. It's about a heart that has been made perfect in love and gives God our everything!

A. Pray

