

“Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David?”

A. **Intro:** *How did a teacher affect your life?*

B. **Sermon in a Sentence:** WHO WE KNOW GUIDES HOW WE TEACH.

C. **Tuesday's Build-Up to This Scene:** *Jesus teaches truth in the midst of trouble and traps.*

- **JUDGMENT** (Mk 11:20-25): The withered fig tree foreshadows Israel's future discipline.
- **AUTHORITY** (Mk 11:27-33): Jesus' authority questioned by those who resist God's authority.
- **STORY** (Mk 12:1-12): Jesus tells the parable of the evil tenants to warn the Jewish leaders.
- **WORSHIP** (Mk 12:13-17): Jesus avoids a trap over paying Roman taxes, turning the snare into a lesson on recognizing who we worship.
- **RESURRECTION** (Mk 12:18-27): Jesus escapes another trap related to God's view of marriage and resurrection life.
- **COMMANDMENT** (Mk 12:28-34): A seeking Jewish teacher discusses the Law's greatest commandment, and Jesus commends the man as nearing the Kingdom of God.

D. **Jesus' Final Teaching in the Temple**, from Mark 12:35-44 (The Message)

1. Jesus is the GOD-MAN.

³⁵ While he was teaching in the Temple, Jesus asked, "How is it that the religion scholars say that the Messiah is David's 'son,' ³⁶ when we all know that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said,

God said to my Master,
"Sit here at my right hand
until I put your enemies under your feet."

³⁷ "David here designates the Messiah 'my Master'—so how can the Messiah also be his 'son'?" The large crowd was delighted with what they heard.

2. Jesus rejects religious showmanship.

³⁸ He continued teaching. "Watch out for the religion scholars. They love to walk around in academic gowns, preening in the radiance of public flattery, ³⁹ basking in prominent positions, sitting at the head table at every church function. ⁴⁰ And all the time they are exploiting the weak and helpless. The longer their prayers, the worse they get. But they'll pay for it in the end."

3. Jesus blesses His beloved, faithful, humble children.

⁴¹ Sitting across from the offering box, he was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. ⁴² One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. ⁴³ Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. ⁴⁴ All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all."

E. Study Questions for Small Groups or Personal Study

1. When have you experienced a mistaken identity situation (yours or someone else)?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus is fully God and fully Human?
3. Who have you told about Jesus lately?
4. Why is religious showmanship so deadly to faith in Christ?
5. What is the most precious thing you own? Imagine placing it on the altar of worship before the Lord. How easy or difficult is that act for you? Why?
6. Each day this week, place something else on the altar of worship before the Lord. Go through the same reflection process as above.
7. Pray for our country's repentance, for our leaders and their humility before God, for the Church to be purified in its worship and submission to Jesus, and for your neighbors who do not yet know the Lord. And get ready for the painful trials ahead. Hold onto Jesus in prayer!