

The Ultimate Argument

Pastor Jeremy Peters & Pastor Matt Kinniburgh

Mark 12:35-37 NIV

While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared:

“The Lord said to my Lord:
‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’

David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

The large crowd listened to him with delight.

“You can only truly know Jesus, if you try to experience him. Jesus is full of surprises, he is tender without being weak, strong without being coarse, lowly without being servile; he has conviction without intolerance, enthusiasm without pretension, holiness without pharisaism, passion without prejudice. This man alone never made a false step.”

God didn’t send us an _____, He sent us a _____.

Mark 12:38-40 ESV

And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Luke 14:7-11 ESV

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1a. Pastor Jeremy highlighted from 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 that every culture has its ways of determining what is true. What are common ways that people determine what is true in our culture?
- 1b. What preconceived ideas about Jesus exist in our culture that people use to invalidate him as the ultimate truth?
2. Read Acts 17:16-23 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and discuss how these passages relate to how Jesus explains himself in Mark 12:35-37.
- 3a. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and *knowing* Jesus? In what ways do these two approaches challenge the basic assumptions of our life?
- 3b. What are you doing to cultivate a deeper understanding of Jesus in relationship rather than just stockpiling ideas about him?
- 3c. How could you invite someone who is struggling with Jesus to understand him through knowing him - not just knowing about him?
4. Pastor Matt talked about how Jesus exposed that the Scribes were operating out of greed and pride in ways that may not have been noticed. How is greed and pride expressed in our lives in ways that we don't notice?
5. Read Luke 14:7-11 and then take time to ask Jesus the following question. Take a moment of silence to listen and then share what you feel like Jesus might be saying to you:

Q: *Jesus, in what aspect of my life do you want me to walk in humility as you would - even an area that I might not be consciously aware of yet?*

Pray for one another accordingly.