

## Discussion Notes

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Mark 12. 35-40

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We've seen several questions in Mark 11 and 12. They build up the final question Jesus asks concerning his identity.

- By whose authority are you doing these things?
- Should we pay taxes to Caesar?
- Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?
- What's the greatest commandment?
- (And finally) whose son is the Messiah?

### 12.35

- We shouldn't miss the significance of Jesus' constant return to the scriptures in directing the people to truth. Jesus sees the Bible of his day as totally authoritative.
- Jesus references Psalm 110 – David's words, inspired by God, prophetically laced.

### 12.36

- This was a well-known Psalm of debate. Whom was David referring to?
- Jesus points out a discrepancy – thus further self-identifying as the Messiah. He is stating that the Psalm is referring to him.
- Jesus is not just of David's line is David's Lord.
- The leaders of the day have missed this, they have made the Messiah too small and missed the heart of God's intent for Israel – to be a light to the nations. In doing so they also make Jesus too small.

### 12.37

- Limited vision and assumption make them miss Jesus.
- There is delight that comes in hope.
- We must dismiss the prevalent untruths and half-truths about Jesus and share a Messiah who is more than people expect him to be.

### 12.38

- Beware those who are misled – they will mislead you!
- A misalignment with scripture and God's true nature leads to pride and an absence of moral fiber.
- Choices have consequences.

Take away – We have to take a good look at ourselves and ask what shapes our thinking about Jesus and the Gospel. Have made him too small or has he become distorted? Big faith in a Big Jesus is what our culture needs.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What stood out to you about this story and sermon?
- Why is Jesus' identity (something Mark hammers home over and over) of such importance in relation to hope?
- What ways can we be tempted to make Jesus small?
- What does "making Jesus big" mean for the church in today's culture?
- What does it mean in your life?