

Small Group Curriculum

Week of 07-08-12

1. Have a volunteer read Mark 12:35-44.
2. In verses 35-37, what puzzle did Jesus give for the scribes to solve? What were the two unacceptable choices the scribes had to choose from in responding to Jesus?
3. How did Jesus' handling of Psalm 110:1 add to the people's understanding of who the Messiah was? Why do you think the crowds were receptive to this revelation?
4. According to verses 38-40, what motivated the Sadducees' practice of religion? What were they willing to do in order to maintain their positions of religious power?
5. What did Jesus say would be the consequence of that behavior?
6. Read Mark 12:41-44. How was the woman's giving an illustration of how the religious leaders "devoured widows houses"?
7. Pastor Brian noted that it was unlikely that Jesus was praising the widow giving her tithe to a corrupt religious system that he was about to destroy. Instead, he pointed out the widow's giving to highlight the injustice of the religious leaders.
8. What are some ways religious games harm innocent people today?
9. Why do you think Jesus was comfortable in openly denouncing his opponents at this phase of his ministry?
10. In verse 43, Jesus contrasts the woman's worship with that of the Sadducees. Even though she was misguidedly funding a hopelessly broken religious system, how was her faith superior to that of the religious leaders?
11. How can we avoid "playing church" in a way that hurts others?