

Cross Purposes

“Case For Christ”, part 40, Insights from Mark 12:13-27
Guest Pastor, Jim Wilson, October 30th, 2022, GPC

- **The Representatives of the Sanhedrin wanted to _____ Jesus.**
 - **Who are “they” ?** (Mark 11:18)
 - **The first plot to kill Jesus forms** (Mark 3:6)
 - **Their Question:** (Mark 12:14)

- **The Pharisees (and Herodians) _____ Jesus by asking a question whose answer would anger one group or another.**
 - **We bear God’s Image** (Gen. 1:27)
 - **New Wine and Old Wineskins** (Mark 2:22)

- **The Sadducees asked a question that would _____ Jesus’ authority.**
 - **Levirate marriage** (Deut. 25:5-10)
 - **Jesus predicts his death & resurrection** (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:32-34)
 - **Burning Bush** (Exodus 3:15)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our tenth week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we are reading and reflecting on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 12:18-27, one of the questions Jesus was asked was about the after life.

Speaking of heaven, what images, ideas or mental pictures did you have of heaven when you were in grade school?

In what ways has your image of heaven changed over the years?

The two groups that asked Jesus their questions had some special interests / concerns that prompted their questions.

Speaking of special interests, concerns or passions, what passions did you grow up around? Was there anything your parents or primary caregivers were really passionate about (besides politics) like a sports team or a hobby when you were growing up?

If so, how did you relate to their level of passion?

How were your passions similar or different from your parents, siblings or friends?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 12:13-27)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. One of the results of living in a country that enjoys as much freedom as we do is the right to have different opinions. We can be passionate about a sports team, health, finances, business and our political affiliations. We are free to express our opinions, but as followers of Jesus we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving.

How could the following verses help shape how we communicate with those we disagree with?

James 1:26-27, James 3:9-12, Proverbs 15:1, Psalm 19:14, 1 Peter 3:15

Which of the above passages is the most challenging for you to remember and live in light of? How so?

2. As Christians we hold a 'dual citizenship'. We are citizens of a specific country and citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20). We are called to live out our earthly citizenship in a way that reflects our heavenly citizenship.

What insights do you see in Romans 13:1-7 about how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the United States, no matter which political party is in the majority?

How could you reconcile Paul's teaching in Romans 13 about our citizenship responsibilities with the response of the Apostles to governmental authority in Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:25-29?

3. In Mark 12:13-17 we were reminded that we are made in God's image or likeness (and not Caesar's :) which means we all have intrinsic value and worth. (see Genesis 1:27)

Many people struggle with believing they are valuable to God and loved by Him.

What can we recognize about our value and worth from the following passages:

Psalm 8:1-9, Psalm 139:13-18

Giving the truths of these passages, why do you think Christians still struggle with their worth and value?

Have you ever struggled with your value and worth? If so, when and why?

How could we use the passages above to help ourselves and/or someone else who is struggling to understand their value and worth?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?