

What and Why They Missed It

“Case For Christ”, part 42, Insights from Mark 12:35-40
Pastor Bob Johnson, November 13th, 2022, GPC

What They Missed: (12:35-37)

(Mark 8:31, 10:33-34, John 7:40-43, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Isaiah 9:6-7)

- **Jesus is more than ...**
- **The apparent contradiction points to His ...**

Why They (and we) Can Miss It: (12:38-40)

When the Bible becomes ...

1. a Pair of ...

(2 Timothy 3:14-16, James 1:22-24)

2. a Book of ...

(Matthew 23:23-24, Deuteronomy 14:23, Micah 6:7-8)

3. a Source for ...

(1 Timothy 1:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:23, Titus 3:9)

4. a Prompting of ...

(1 Corinthians 8:1-3, 1 Corinthians 13:2)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

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

In this series, we have been slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we are reading and reflecting on a passage from Mark's gospel and discussing 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 :).

Last Sunday, rather than using the Bible as "binoculars" (focusing on what others should learn) or as a "source of speculations", we were encouraged to focus more on how the Bible can speak to our lives and focus on the truths that are clear in Scripture and asking God for wisdom in applying His truths to our everyday lives.

An acrostic that was shared was SPECS when reading and reflecting on the Bible. Using the Bible as a mirror, we can ask, "Is there something new we learned?" "Is there a promise to claim?" "Is there an example to follow or not follow?" "Is there a command to obey?" and lastly, as I read God's Word, "Is there a sin that I need to confess to God?"

From the Bible, what example can you think of that God has encouraged you to follow somehow or avoid following in their footsteps?

Of the four wrong ways we can use the Bible that was mentioned last Sunday, which of them would be easiest for you to fall into?

How has your reading/studying/listening to the Bible changed over the years?

Since this is our last week before we take a holiday break, how has being part of our small group supported you and/or stretched you? What did you learn about yourself as we met together?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 12:35-40)

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. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and 171 of the 176 verses contain a reference to God's Word. This Psalm gives us an inside look at how the writer, King David, used the Scriptures to stay connected with God in the midst of chaotic life circumstances.

Let's read a few passages from this Psalm and share some insights with each other.

Psalm 119:1-8, 9-16, 65-72

What words or phrases stand out to you?

What are some truths that would be helpful to remember?

What are some verses that are harder to understand that we can help each other with?

What attitudes and actions do you see David maintaining to keep God's Word active in his life?

Which of David's attitudes toward God's Word can you relate to the most?

Which one is most foreign to you?

From these passages, are there any of these actions or attitudes you might want to consider practicing when it comes to keeping Scripture an active part of your life?

2. Humility is an important character trait for helping us stay teachable and less likely to use the Bible in wrong ways. When we are proud we tend to do the opposite of what God would have for us. What can we learn about pride and humility from the following passages?

Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 16:18, Romans 12:3, 1 Peter 5:5-7

Looking back at the four wrong ways to use the Bible, how would each of them be impacted by a healthy dose of humility?

Humility is often defined as having an accurate view of ourselves (including our strengths, weaknesses and limitations). Do you think humility in our interactions with others is similar or different from humility in our relationship with God?

3. In Matthew 7:3-5, Jesus gives us some practical help in maturing as followers of Christ and loving others. What insights do you notice from these few verses?

We are more open to listen to someone who has first taken a good look at themselves :).

What are some practical ways we can do better at noticing our own logs that show up every now and then?

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?