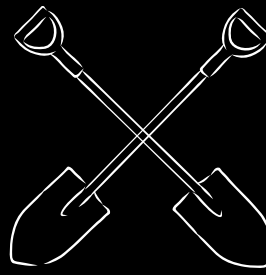


DIGGING DEEPER



SUNDAY STUDY RESOURCE

“In Spirit and Truth” Mark 12:13-40 NKJV



SYNOPSIS

True worship is far more than outward religious activity; it is a life surrendered to God in spirit and truth. Continuing in our chronological study through the life of Jesus called “The Red Letter Dilemma,” Pastor Tim teaches a message from Mark Chapter 12 entitled “In Spirit and Truth” that includes 5 takeaways from God’s Word that we can apply in our lives.

Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth means we...

- 1) Give God His due above human authorities
- 2) Must know the Scriptures and trust God’s power
- 3) Will love God completely and love others sacrificially
- 4) Will recognize who Jesus really is: the Lord and Messiah, and 5) reject religious pride and hypocrisy

We hope this message encourages you to worship the Lord with a sincere heart, rooted in His Word, empowered by His truth, and fully devoted to Him

KEY VERSE:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

JOHN 4:24 (NKJV)

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Text: Mark 12:13–17

Cross-References: Genesis 1:26–27; Romans 13:1–7; Acts 5:29

Discuss: The Pharisees and Herodians attempted to trap Jesus by asking whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus responded by saying, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." According to Genesis 1:26–27, what does it mean that humanity is created in the image of God? Romans 13:1–7 teaches believers to submit to governing authorities. How do we balance honoring earthly authorities while remaining faithful to God when the two come into conflict, as seen in Acts 5:29?

Text: Mark 12:18–27

Cross-References: Exodus 3:6; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 11:6

Discuss: Jesus rebuked the Sadducees for not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God. Why is it dangerous to separate biblical knowledge from faith in God's power? How does God's declaration in Exodus 3:6 that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob support the reality of life after death?

Text: Mark 12:28–31

Cross-References: Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Leviticus 19:18; John 14:15

Discuss: Jesus identified the greatest commandments as loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself. What does Deuteronomy 6:4–5 reveal about the depth and completeness of love God desires from His people? How does Leviticus 19:18 define our responsibility toward others?

FAMILY DISCUSSION *(Questions for your middle-school or high-school children)*

Text: Mark 12:32–34

Cross-References: 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Matthew 23:23

Discuss: The scribe recognized that loving God and loving others is more important than sacrifices and offerings. According to 1 Samuel 15:22, why does God value obedience more than sacrifice?

REFLECTIONS

- 1) Which of those areas is hardest for you to fully surrender to God right now? What practical step can you take this week to deepen your love for Him?
- 2) Are there any spiritual habits or church activities that you have allowed to become routine rather than expressions of genuine love for God? How can you refocus your heart so your worship flows from relationship instead of obligation?
- 3) Jesus warned against spiritual pride and seeking recognition from others. When you serve, pray, give, or minister to others, are you motivated more by God's approval or people's approval? Ask the Lord to reveal any hidden pride in your heart and identify one way you can serve Him quietly and humbly this week.

RESOURCES

Ready to Serve? 412temecula.com/serve

Need Prayer? Email prayer@412temecula.com