

**Week 21**  
**Mark 10-14**

Theme: What is your 1?

**Conversation Starter**

**What action option did you choose to do after our discussion last week? What went well? What did not go well?**

**What questions do you have from the reading this week?**

**Weekly Review/Intro**

This week's reading continued to follow Jesus' ministry and took us up to his betrayal. In these chapters, we saw a lot of conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders at the time.

**Why do you think the religious leaders did not like Jesus? What do you think is the source of controversy?**

**In Mark 8:12, we can see some frustration in Jesus with the Pharisees. Why do you think Jesus was frustrated? Do you think he was right to be upset with them?**

The controversy between Jesus and the religious leaders stems from the fact the Jesus was teaching the ways of God when the Pharisees were not. Many times through the new testament, Jesus calls out the hypocrisy of the religious elite of the time.

**Read Mark 12:38-40**

**What comes to mind when you read these verses?**

**What do you think was the motivation driving the scribes actions? What did they want?**

The scribes are exhibiting self-serving behavior. They are trying to get attention from others in public, taking the best seats, wanting the place of honor, taking widow's homes and saying long prayers for show.

**Have you ever met someone, in the Church, who acted like the scribes?**

**How did your view of that person change when you saw this behavior?**

**How can this type of behavior affect the church?**

This type of self-serving behavior is not something that Christians should participate in. James 3:16 says “For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice.” Clearly, this type of behavior is not something that we should be involved in.

**Who is the person that gains from our selfish ambition?**

**What typically motivates us to be envious or selfishly ambitious?**

Typically, we are envious because we do not have something that we want, and we are ambitious to get the thing that we want.

**How can envy and self ambition be indicators of our priorities in life?**

**How can our priorities in life affect our choices and actions?**

### **Application**

The scribes were a great example of people who had their priorities in the wrong order. They showed that they wanted to be the center of attention and benefits of their position without concern for others. In the chapters we read, there were many teachings and parables that addressed our priorities.

**What are some of the priorities in your life? What things, actions, or people do you really value?**

**What do you think our priorities say about our view of God?**

**How can we know that our priorities align with God’s?**

We are going to take some time to dive into some of the parables and interactions of Jesus that serve as examples of bad priorities and look at an example of how we can know that we have good priorities.

**Read Mark 10:17-22**

**How did the man start his address to Jesus? How does this show his view of Jesus?**

**After bowing, the man asked a question. Do you think the man actually meant this question or was he testing Jesus?**

From the context, we see that this man truly thought Jesus was a good teacher. He bowed before him and asked a very important question.

### **How did Jesus respond to the question? Where do these commands come from?**

Jesus responded by quoting old testament law, and the man said that he kept those from his youth. After this exchange, Jesus tells him to sell everything he owns and give to the poor.

### **What are your thoughts about this command?**

### **Is Jesus telling us that we need to give up earthly possessions?**

At face value, this section is very confusing. Jesus is not telling us that we need to give up earthly possessions to follow him. He is trying to teach the man about his priorities. This man was seeking out Jesus to learn from him, but he still had something prioritized over Jesus: his money.

### **Do you value your possessions? Do you like having money?**

### **Is it wrong to have money or to enjoy using the money you have?**

Having money is not a sin, but, like we saw in previous sessions, the love of money is a sin. It is not wrong to enjoy having the possessions God has given you.

### **What are some symptoms that you are prioritizing money or possessions over God?**

### **What can you do in your life to not let money become your top priority?**

The symptoms of prioritizing money over God can vary from person to person. The hallmark symptom is that you are choosing to do things for money over choosing to do things from God. A good way to remind yourself of God's place in our possessions can be found in 2 Corinthians.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

### **How can these verses help remind us to not prioritize money over God?**

Verse 8 is a great reminder that God will take care of us. God will make sure that we have what we need. This can be a problem for some because He is not promising that we will get what we want. The second example of bad priorities comes from a parable of Jesus.

## **Read Mark 12:1-10**

**This parable is a metaphor for the relationship between God and the Israelites. Let's list out what each of these key things represents.**

- 1) Vineyard Owner - God**
- 2) Vineyard - Being God's chosen people**
- 3) The messengers - The Old Testament Prophets**
- 4) The son - Jesus**

**What parallels do you see between this parable and the story of the Israelites?**

As I said, this parable is a direct explanation of God's relationship with the people of Israel. God made the vineyard and gave it to the people by making them his chosen nation. However, when God expected them to produce fruit, they rebelled against His messengers (the prophets). Even when he sent Jesus, the owners (Israelites) turned on Him to gain His inheritance.

**Why do you think the farmers rebelled against the messengers?**

**Why do you think the farmers killed the son?**

The farmers were acting out of greed. They wanted to have what they wanted, so they were willing to kill to get it. One symptom of having our priorities out of order is that we are willing to do what is wrong for what we value.

**What is a modern day example of priorities being wrong pushing us to sin?**

**How can we shift the priorities in our lives? What are practical things we can do every day to remind ourselves that God should be top priority?**

Shifting our priorities can be a challenge. Some example of actions could be to remind ourselves of the promises of God. We could pray to God and give him our worries and cares because many times we worry about our priorities. We also could talk to others about how we are feeling and ask others if they see God as a priority in our life.

**Week 21**  
**Mark 10-14**

**Reflection**

During this week, you are being charged with answering these questions about yourself and your walk with God. Hopefully these will force you to pray and consider what God wants you to do in your life.

- 1) Do you act like the scribes? Are you self-serving in your actions?
- 2) What is your first priority in life?
- 3) Do you love money over loving God and others?
- 4) What can you do to fix your priorities in life?

**Action**

Choose one of the following actions to do as part of your walk this week.

- 1) Write down the list of priorities in your life. After you write the list, number them from most important (1) to your least important. Be honest about your list. Ask yourself if God really is your top priority.
- 2) Go to a fellow believer and ask them if they see evidence that God is the top priority in your life. Ask them to be honest and be ready to discuss what they say.
- 3) This week, break your norm by going out to show love to someone else. Serve someone else in a way that will bless them.