

The Bigger Issue

Mark 12:18-27

Into the Lesson:

Imagine the scenario depicted in Mark 12:19-23 is being pitched in Hollywood for a weekly series or a “made for T.V.” movie. Would it be:

- C.S.I. Jerusalem-
- Law and Order-M.V.U. (Multiple Victims Unit)-
- Unsolved Mysteries-
- Something on the Food Network channel-
- A Sit-Com-Something of an *UnBrady Bunch* theme-
- A Musical- “*One Bride for Seven Brothers*”

Into the Word:

How successful has the Jewish leadership’s attempts to trap Jesus been to this point?

From Lane’s sermon, do you get a sense of the absurdity of their attempts?

After reading Deuteronomy 25:5-10 to understand the context about “continuing the lineage”, consider how the “big guns” (Pharisees, Herodians and the Sadducees) have become so single minded they have lost sight of the Big Picture.

Spend some time reading all three of the parallel accounts of this part of the Passion week and note the similarities and differences:

- Matthew 22:23-33-
- Mark 12:18-27-
- Luke 20:27-40-

How does Mark 12:25 help us to further understand the patience of Jesus and His desire to teach *Truth*, even though some have their minds made up?

How does verse 24 further point out how they were missing the point?

How does Lane’s quote, “...that the things that are precious to us and to Jesus here on earth won’t be done away with or rendered useless in the afterlife” provide a sense of hope for today?

After reading Exodus 3:1-6, what do you think the Sadducees response was when Jesus quoted this to “theological elite”?

Into Life:

Beyond the hope of the Resurrection, what are some of the indications that we live in a culture that seems to have *lost any hope*?

Try reading Philippians 4:7-8 from the perspective of one who can see “*no light at the end of the tunnel*”

How can we begin to translate the following to those we are in daily contact with:

- Romans 8:20-25-
- Ephesians 1:18-

How can inviting someone to Thanksgiving dinner become the starting point for melting that iceberg of hopelessness?

What else can we do to bring, “true meaningfulness of the ties that have bound us together” to those who feel...*unbound*?

Romans 5:5-6

⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

This Week’s Songs:

- How Great is the Greatness of God (Hymn 586)
- We Will Feast in the House of Zion (Hymn 894)
- All My Hope
- Come Let Us Return to the Lord (Hymn 101)
- You Cannot Be Stopped

