

Recap of 3/3/24 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 12:35-37):

1. The first half of the Book of Mark is concerned with proofs that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. The second half deals with the kind of Messiah He would be. The reason that Jesus warns His disciples not to tell who He is, is because they had an inadequate understanding of the person of Messiah. He begins by correcting the wrong notions about the Messiah among His disciples, The Messiah, in His first coming, would be a suffering Messiah, something His disciples did not grasp. Richards explains their obtuseness this way: "The disciples didn't really 'hear' Jesus—because their thoughts were filled with plans for their own future. They didn't hear Jesus because their thoughts were too filled with themselves. All too often this is what happens to us. We're so busy with our own thoughts and dreams that we simply don't listen or care.' This is a cautionary tale for us. Are we preoccupied with ourselves, or are we listening to Jesus?"

2. E. Stanley Jones, in the book *The Divine Yes*, discussed how God uses suffering in our lives. - "Once I saw a beautiful church made up of rejected pieces of marble that were brought together into a whole. It made a very beautiful sanctuary. I have picked out certain things, pieces left over from the wreckage of my life [due to a devastating stroke at the age of 88] and am trying to put them together into a temple of God, a workable way to live. Has your life gone to pieces? If so, take the pieces and give them back to God and He will make something out of them. It is amazing what God can do with a broken heart, or life, when you give Him all the pieces."

3. This passage, Mark 12:35-37, focuses on the religious leaders and their inadequate understanding of the Messiah. Who is Jesus? He is the Messiah who suffered for us; the Messiah who is God incarnate. How do we know? We have a record (the Scripture) which is breathed out by God; we have a record which is trustworthy and reliable.

- "The clear meaning of the passage is that the Jewish conceptions of the day were inadequate vehicles for containing the full role and person of the Messiah, and the full sweep of God's plan of redemption" (Hurtado). Their view was political and nationalistic, an inadequate conception of the Messiah. Messiah was more than a great, heroic king or national hero, He was God in human flesh, come to provide redemption from sin and death.

- Jesus came to provide redemption. To do what the Law through the weakness of the flesh could not do.