

Second Verse Study Guide

Walk His Way: Week Four

People are motivated by many things—ambition, money, power, recognition, the desire to please God. What motivates your daily life and future plans?

In this passage Jesus encounters or comments on a variety of people whose lives are governed by different goals. In so doing he exposes our own motivations to his searching glance.

1. Read Mark 12:28–44. Like the chief priests, elders, Pharisees and Sadducees of 11:27—12:27, another teacher of the law comes to Jesus with a pointed question (v. 28). What evidence is there that he is not out to trap Jesus?
2. Though Jesus is only asked for one commandment (Deut 6:4-5), in good rabbinic fashion he responds by adding a second to his reply (Lev 19:18). What relationship does this second commandment bear to the first?
3. The teacher not only endorses Jesus' answer, he takes it a step further. What are some contemporary examples of burnt offerings and sacrifices?
4. If you were to evaluate your daily activities on the basis of love for God and neighbor, how would you fare? Explain.
5. What steps can you take to make the love of God and love of neighbor a higher priority in your life?
6. How has Jesus succeeded in silencing his questioners? (Look back over 11:27—12:34 to answer this.)
7. To a Jew in Jesus' day a descendant was always inferior to an ancestor. A son might call his father or grandfather "lord" but never vice versa. How can Christ be both David's Lord and his descendant?
8. What does it mean for us to call Jesus "Lord"?
9. What warning to us is present in Jesus' cautions about the teachers of the law (vv. 38–40)?
10. In contrast to the teachers of the law and the rich, what motivates the widow's religious behavior?
11. How does she fulfill the great commandment?
12. What implications does this example have for our giving to the Lord's work?
13. Read Malachi 3:1–5. In what ways has Jesus been fulfilling this prophecy in chapters 11—12 of Mark's Gospel?