



Following Jesus To The Truth
Mark 12:28-34

Following Jesus To The Truth

- **John 14:5-6 NIV**, 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - **Matthew 4:19 NIV**, Jesus said, “Come, follow me”

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- **Luke 19:37-41 NIV**, 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

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- **Luke 19:37-41 NIV**, 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” 40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”
 - 41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.”
 - **TLB**, 41 But as they came closer to Jerusalem and he saw the city ahead, he began to cry. 42 “Eternal peace was within your reach and you turned it down,” he wept, “and now it is too late.”

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- **Matthew 21:12-15 NIV**, 12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

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- **Matthew 21:12-15 NIV**, 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.
 - Indignant - Literally to "foam at the mouth" in rage
- The Parable of the Wedding Banquet,
 - **Matthew 22:14 NIV**, “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Paying the Imperial Tax to Ceasar
 - **Matthew 22:15-22 NIV**, 15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. 17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Paying the Imperial Tax to Ceasar
 - **Matthew 22:15-22 NIV**, 18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, 20 and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” 21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” 22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Marriage at the Resurrection
 - **Matthew 22:23-28 NIV**, 23 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 24 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him.

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Marriage at the Resurrection
 - **Matthew 22:23-28 NIV**, 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?”

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Marriage at the Resurrection
 - **Matthew 4:29-33 NIV**, 29 Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31 But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”
 - 33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

Following Jesus To The Truth

- The Greatest Truth
 - **Mark 12:28-34 NIV**, 28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

Following Jesus To The Truth

- The Greatest Truth
 - **Mark 12:28-34 NIV**, 29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Following Jesus To The Truth

- The Greatest Truth
 - **Mark 12:28-34 NIV**, 32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”
 - 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Following Jesus To The Truth

- “The Lord our God, the Lord is one”
 - The Lord our God is singular, unique, unparalleled
 - There is only one creator, sustainer, definer, worthy
- Our highest goal in life is to
 - Personally know this one true God
 - Personally seek His heart, mind, love
 - Personally accept His forgiveness, adoption, love, new life

Following Jesus To The Truth

- Our highest goal in life is to
 - To learn our relationship with God begins with love, and from that love flows obedience
 - We don't obey to appease an angry deity; we obey because we love the God who first loved us
 - Do you love Him with this type of love?

Following Jesus To The Truth

- We must learn to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
 - Modern Christianity often emphasizes emotional connection with God while neglecting the intellectual dimension of faith
 - Yet Jesus explicitly commands us to love God not with just our emotions or our hands but with our minds
 - What a wonder to know this infinite holy God desires me to know Him with my finite mind

Following Jesus To The Truth

- To "love your neighbor as yourself"
 - To extend the same care, compassion, and concern that you instinctively have for your own well-being to others
 - It is a command for action, not just a feeling, and functions as a guide for how to treat all people with justice and respect
 - Acting with compassion, Showing kindness, Forgiving others, Exercising respect, Rejecting prejudice, Setting appropriate boundaries
 - Didn't we observe Jesus doing all these as we walked with Him today?

Following Jesus To The Truth

- The Teacher of the Law gets it
 - **Vs. 33**, “To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”
 - How about you? Do you get it?

Following Jesus To The Truth

- The Teacher of the Law gets it
 - As the Teacher looks upon Jesus with respect and maybe admiration Jesus tells him
 - **Vs. 34**, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”
 - “You are not far from taking the next step of faith and following Me”
 - How about You this morning?



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