

SERMON: Christ the End of the Law.

November 5, 2017

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 12:38-44. And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. The Law and control.

- The Law as measure, accusation, control, and death.

II. Our response to the Law.

- Control it.

- Be controlled by it.

- Give up control.

III. Christ the end of the Law.

- His life: He perfect life fulfills the law.

- His death: He pays the penalty for us because we broke the law.

- His resurrection: He fills us with love so we can obey the law (love God and others).

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Talk through the difference between the Old Testament law as God's standard (love God and others/ don't steal, etc.) and the many cultural "laws" or standards that we live under (getting good grades/ work performance/ beauty and fitness, etc.). How are they the same? How are they different?
2. Law is all about control. In what ways have you used "law" to control your own life and the life of others?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:56. Law leads to death. Remember the Law of God is perfect, but we are sinful. How does trying to obey the law only lead to sin and death, especially the death of love? Think about the example of the scribes- did they love others? Did they love the widow?
4. If you have time read Matthew 23. Look at how Jesus described the Scribes and Pharisees. For each of Jesus' statements below, think about how it is a warning for us today.
 - "They do all their deeds to be seen by others." (Using comparison to feel good about yourself)
 - "You lay heavy burdens on people's shoulders." (Adding your own convictions to God's Word)
 - "You neglect the weightier matters of the law- justice and mercy" (Refusing to help the poor)
 - "You are white washed tombs" (You never talk about your sin or suffering).
 - "You shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces" (Do you measure spiritual growth by works, or by desperation/need for grace?)
5. Can you explain how Christ is the "end of the law" (Romans 10:4)? Talk through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. How does each of these remove law keeping in our lives and replace it with love?
 - His life (Jesus perfectly obeyed the law).
 - His death (Jesus substituted his life for ours- he took our punishment for law breaking).
 - His resurrection (Jesus' life of love is poured into us by the Spirit).
6. Spend some time giving thanks to God that he has removed the control of the law from your life while at the same time giving you the power through Christ's love to fulfill the law of love.