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| 1  Mark 12.13-27 Sermon Outline  10/21/23  “Divine Authority, Divine Power”  INTRO:  Authority and power connected  Who is your authority and who do you look to for power?  Everything in life comes down to issue of authority  Authority not popular subject today and Americans are especially repulsed by it  But it is deadly important and critical to understand issue of authority  If you believe you are authority in life then everything you do and think will be based on what you say is true | 2  If you are the authority, you live off of you  vs.  God is the authority, you live off of what God says  THESIS:  Today’s passage we will see who has ultimate authority and power to back up that authority in this life.  BODY:  Comes right off heels of parable of judgment against chief priests, scribes, elders  V. 13 Pharisees and Herodians are sent to “trap” Jesus in statement  Jesus will face 3 questions  -We will look at first two today  As far back as Mark 3:6 Pharisees and Herodians conspired together to destroy Jesus |
| 3  This alliance is odd because Pharisees and Herodians hated each other  But they hated Jesus more so they tolerate each other  V. 14 They come with flattery (read vv. 14-15)  This is the first test  Ironically what they say about Jesus is true  But they ask the question:  “Shall we pay or shall we not pay?”  Poll tax = denarius every year = a day’s wage  Jesus knew they were “hypocrites” = they too hated paying taxes to Caesar  “Why are you testing Me? Bring me a denarius to look at.”  Jesus knows and cannot be put in a box | 4  Jesus cannot be domesticated  He cannot be controlled by man  V. 16 They bring denarius  Image = Tiberius Caesar  Inscription = “Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus Caesar”  Other side = Livia, Tiberius’ mother  Inscription = “High Priest”  V. 17 (read)  They were hoping for Jesus to say one or the other  -But He didn’t  Pay: Jesus would be discredited and hated  Don’t pay: Rome might execute Him  Instead: Acknowledged obeying Roman government but submitting that under God’s ultimate rule and reign |
| 5  Making a contrast:  Pay to Caesar what is due to Him  But you owe everything to God!  Allegiance to God should far outweigh your allegiance to Caesar  Since you are made in the image of God, you are owned by God  Masterful answer for he avoids both answers that Pharisees and Herodians were hoping for  Caesar is placed there by God Himself  Read Romans 13:1-7:  *“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.* | 6  *For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.* ***Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake.*** *For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”*  God instituted government to act on behalf of God’s authority to reward good behavior and punish bad behavior.  Not only this, but also for conscience’s sake (to have a pure and unvarnished testimony for Christ)  Even if there is abuse and corruption in taxation or whatever, we are still to follow it |
| 7  Even if we think the law that was made is pure stupidity, we are still to follow it  Having said that there are exceptions:  Acts 4:19-20  The authorities told them to not speak the name of Jesus:  *But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*  Kind of like Covid right?  I try to keep politics out of the pulpit but when politics encroaches on our faith, then we are forced to interact with it  Churches refused to shut down because it was a violation of Hebrews 10:25 to not neglect meeting together | 8  Now if Covid was the bubonic plague or the Spanish flu where literally millions upon millions died, then that’s a different story. The church might want to practice some discernment then.  -But had some death rate as the regular flu  Also it was not like the government was giving a suggestion but they were trying to shut down churches with threats of fines in American churches and imprisonment in other countries like Canada  So they were forcing churches to sin by not meeting together based on essentially a lie  Jesus “amazed” audience in v. 17 because in saying what He said, He was not discouraging obedience to Rome but encouraging it as unto God  Unlike Jewish zealots who tried to overthrow government  Followers of Christ are called to obey government whenever possible unless it causes them to sin or disobey God in any way. |
| 9  God even said in 1 Timothy 2 that we are too:  *“entreat, pray, petition, with thanksgiving, God on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quite life in all godliness and dignity.”*  You are not to protest, storm the capital, or cause disturbance for government, but have attitude of honor and respect for authorities as those appointed by God to govern His people  TRANSITION:  We see Christ’s divine authority demonstrated in that whatever allegiance we ow to our government, it pales in comparison to allegiance we are to have to Son of God  BODY:  Now we come to second question designed to trap Jesus. Christ will demonstrate not only divine authority but divine power | 10  This time, it is not Pharisees and Herodians but Sadducees who come to Jesus  V. 18 Sadducees (don’t believe in resurrection)  They come to him to flatter again Jesus to bring His guard down  They were an odd group:  Lesser in number than Pharisees but more powerful  They only believed in Torah, first five books:  Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy  -Believed all other OT books was secondary and just a commentary of Torah  Sadducees didn’t believe in the afterlife, they were materialists  No angels, no spirits (Acts 23:8)  They just believed in annihilation of soul after death |
| 11  Form of theistic humanist which is bizarre because if you are theistic, you normally believe in life after death  Egyptians buried dead pharaoh with their stuff for afterlife  Greeks put coin in dead person’s mouth to pay ferrymen across river Styx, the River of death  Some plain Indians buried dead warriors with a horse and a bow to hunt in the next world  Some Eskimos in Greenland bury a guide dog with deceased person to help guide them through the cold wasteland of death  All these prove simple truth that Ecclesiastes 3:11  “God has placed eternity in the heart of man”  But Sadducees are sad existence, they only believe this world is all there is | 12  That’s why they allied themselves with Rome to secure positions of wealth, power, prestige, and control  But Sadducees talking about Levirate marriage  Levirate marriage: Deut. 25 designed to prevent intermarriage between Jew and Gentile and to preserve the honor and property of that brother in the family line  Ex: book of Ruth and Gen. 38 with Tamar and Judah’s Sons  Sadducees thought resurrection would be absurd because whose wife would she be? First husband’s?  Jesus responds vv. 24-27 (read)  Jesus could have quoted from a number of OT passages like Daniel 12 but didn’t  Quoted Exodus 3 |
| 13  Perhaps it was to show that from their own book of authority, they were mistaken about resurrection  Past vs. present tense  What does it mean?  Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob long dead by Moses’ time, yet God is emphasizing His ongoing covenant commitment to them in that it will culminate in their resurrection in Revelation  Also, it shows that God is communing with them in heaven as living souls right now, though their bodies are in the grave.  -One day their bodies will be reunited to their  souls  They don’t understand their own Scriptures  Came to conclusion based on a wrong understanding of Exodus 3  How foolish they must have looked in crowds | 14  BTW, it should matter to you whether Scripture verb is in past or present tense, because it mattered to Jesus  That’s why you believe in verbal plenary inspiration  verbal = revelation through words  plenary = extending to whole as well as parts, down to tense of verb  Not only did they not understand scriptures but did not understand power of God!  Resurrection will not just be a bigger better version of what we experience on earth, but a totally different kind and dimension  1 Cor. 15:40-44:  *“There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.* |
| 15  *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;**it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”*  So what does this mean for Mark 12:25?  It means there will be no marriage nor sex in heaven  -Now some of you may be disappointed in that  -Some of you may be relieved I suppose  But what?! There’s no marriage in heaven? And there’s no sex in heaven?  Will my love for my husband or wife be less in heaven?  Answer: No, whatever love, affection, or attachment you have on earth will be that much more magnified in heaven. | 16  I don’t know how that works, but it will be beyond your wildest dreams  Taste of what is to come.  I know you will be able to love each other in heaven with a pure love, without selfishness or lust.  There will be no marriage in heaven because reality of Christ marrying the church will be fully realized.  Thus, no need for children because there is no death as you will live on forever.  Luke says in same account that those who are raised *“will not die anymore, because they will be like the angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”*  No need for procreation because God has filled the earth with His glory  If you do feel sad about leaving earthly life, then you are not looking to heaven enough |
| 17  Christians too can be too fixated like the world on this earth and see earthly pleasures as ends to themselves instead of a means to an end  But Col. 3 commands us to look to heaven not only for our joy but for our fight against sin:  Turn to Colossians 3:1-11 (turn)  Because no immorality, impurity, passion, evil desires, and greed in heaven in our resurrected bodies, so we too must live as if we already have our resurrected bodies  It’s true that bodily resurrection hasn’t happened  but spiritual resurrection has happened  Romans 6:4 *“You have been raised to newness of life”*  Scriptures: *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come”* | 18  Sadducees were mistaken, “fatally” mistaken in their assumption about resurrection.  “Mistaken” repeated twice = “planet” they have missed the base, floating away like a planet  Multitudes today like Sadducees that live as if no resurrection,  no life after death,  no judgment,  just meaningless.  Do you live that way?  Do you live believing there is no resurrection, that these Christians in their delusion created this doctrine to comfort them in pains of life  If you do, then why not go all the way?  Fornicate all you want  Need a little cash? Why not steal money  Lie on your tax returns |
| 19  Why not get hammered in drunkenness every night?  Why not get high on every form of drug available?  There’s no purpose to life anyways  As Paul said 1 Cor. 15:32  “If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.”  Why not make Shakespeare’s MacBeth your life-verse?  *“Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury signifying nothing.”*  We’re just some accidental slime that evolved over time, no different than the animals, we just live off of instinct and survival.  If the resurrection never happened, Paul said “we out of all people, are most to be pitied” | 20  But the resurrection is true, because Jesus says it will happen, and Jesus is truth incarnate.  And if you have no given your life to Christ, then God says you are dead in your sins.  And when you are raised from the dead, God will give you a body suited to be in hell forever  But God raised up Jesus from dead to give your mortal body life  If you believe in Him He can make you alive not only spiritually now but physically after you die  John 5:24  *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*  Paul was choice servant of Jesus to suffer for Him longed for resurrection from the dead |
| 21  Philippians 3 = goal of life  Despite credentials as Pharisee and fastidious Jew, he counts all as loss in light of resurrection.  Philippians 3:7-11  *“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”* | 22  Is the resurrection your hope?  Do you trust that Christ has the authority and power to raise you from the dead?  Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?  Let’s pray  Bene: Eph. 1:18-21 |