

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

May 2, 2021

Gospel fo Mark Series

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

Organ Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

*Call to Worship

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the One that gives all goodness.

*Hymn PH 455 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vv. 1,2,6)

1 All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

6 All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri (PH 579)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— “The peace of Christ be with you”

Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Second Reading Mark 12:35-44

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’” David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

SERMON “The Authority of Jesus, Part 3”

Mark 12:35-44

- This morning we continue our series on the Authority of Jesus.
- Let’s review.
- On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters into Jerusalem on a donkey, and on the very next day Jesus over turns the tables in the temple courts.

- He condemns the religious leaders because they have made a house of prayer a den of thieves.
- After Jesus clears the temple courts, the religious leaders become more hostile toward Jesus and do everything in their power to put Jesus away.
- This is where we see the sparks fly.
- Last week, I said this reminds me of a sporting tournament competition where various groups of religious leaders go head to head against Jesus.
- As we have seen in every event, Jesus demonstrates his authority and dominance, and completely embarrasses every segment of Jewish religious leadership.
- What gave Jesus his edge against the religious leaders?
- Well, last week we looked at only two ways Jesus had authority over the religious leaders.
- I had intended to show you 5 ways, but we only got through the first two.
- Today I wanted to continue to demonstrate to you, how Jesus had an edge over his competition.

Jesus had Authority Over the Religious Leaders:

1. Because of their Ignorance

- This was when the Sadducees asked him the question about who is married to whom in the afterlife.

2. Because of their Unbelief

- This was when one of the Scribes asked him what was the greatest commandment.
- He was told that he was not far from the kingdom of God

3. Because of their Limited Application of the Scripture

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David?"

- After responding to his opponents' trick questions, Jesus now asks a question of his own concerning popular Jewish messianic expectations.
- Jesus was really asking, who is the Messiah?
- The Jewish understanding that the Messiah was to come from the line of David was a standard belief found in the Old Testament.
- The religious leaders emphasized that the Messiah or the Christ is the Son of David or come from the lineage of David who would be the best king they had ever seen.
- You see their understanding of the Messiah was too small
- Their reasoning went something like this: The Son of David would surely be, like his 'father, David', able to rid the Jews of oppression, and reign over the Jews forever.
- But Jesus here challenges that line of thinking where his question shows that he wanted to correct what he regarded as wrong notions about the Messiah.
- Using Psalm 110, Jesus says:

36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The Lord [God Himself] said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" 37 David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?"

- Jesus was trying to elevate their conception of the Messiah.
- When Jesus uses this Psalm, there is an assumption here.
- David wrote the psalm, and David was inspired by God when he wrote it.

- Jesus presupposes that this is an understood Messianic psalm.
- A Messianic psalm is about the expectancy of God's deliverance in the coming Messiah
- David called the Messiah "my Lord."
- The reasoning Jesus uses here is, how can the Messiah be David's son at the same time as David's Lord?
- To Jesus, even though the Messiah was a descendant of David, he is also the Son of God and therefore more superior in rank to David
- Jesus is implying that the Messiah was surely more than the physical seed of David—more than the earthly conqueror they were expecting.
- He was saying its not about human lineage but the Messiah is about the divine lineage which was far more superior.
- He wanted them to grasp that the Messiah was going to be more than a nationalistic hero, but the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who will reign over the whole earth
- In one sense, the view of the religious leaders was actually correct but incomplete.
- They had a limited understanding and application of Scripture
- This is why we always pray before the Scriptures are read so that we have God's help illumine what the Word of God says.
- Do you have a hard time understanding the Word of God?
- Jesus wants to help you open your hearts and minds so that the Word of God is not a mystery or boiled down to a limited and narrow understanding.
- But with God's help, the Word of God can be a light unto our path.

And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

4. Because they were Pompous and Greedy

38 As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!"

- Right after Jesus points out the inadequacy of the understanding of the Messiah, Mark now shows Jesus giving a general criticism of the scribes as a group for the abuse of their respected position in Jewish society.
- Here, Jesus was warning the people (probably in front of the scribes) to watch out for the scribes because on the outside they looked like people deserving respect, but on the inside they were pompous and greedy.
- The scribes wore these white linen garments with fringes as a sign of their devotion to the law and their special special place in Jewish life.
- When they wore these garments it gave them the respect they loved in the marketplace from admiring common people.
- Upon their approach, other Jews would stand to show their respect, and address them with titles of honor like "master" or "father."
- It gave them seats of highest honor in social situations like banquets where they received preferential treatment as well as special front facing seats in the synagogue.
- You can see how this type of social treatment can go to their heads.
- The problem here was when the honor they received became more important than the honor that was due to God.

40 They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

- The reference to "devour widows houses" was about how certain scribes would take advantage of devout widows and take all their assets in the appearance of supporting the very work of God.
- Their prayers were all for show.
- There was not a sincere bone in their body.
- Jesus condemns their behavior because the scribes that participated in this activity were pompous and greedy.
- When I ponder this weakness of the scribes, I am moved by their lack of integrity.
- Their religiosity was not for God, but for show to the people.
- They lacked a consistency between the faith they proclaimed with the faith they lived out in their lives.
- Illustration: There is an old story about two neighbors, a baker and a farmer. The baker began to be suspicious of the farmer, wondering if he wasn't getting his money's worth when he paid for a pound of butter. He weighed the farmer's butter on several occasions, and the butter consistently weighed less than a full pound. Enraged, he had him arrested for fraud. The judge asked the farmer at the trial, "I presume you have scales?" "Yes, of course, Your Honor," the farmer replied. "And I presume you use standard weights to measure your goods?" the judge asked. "Yes, generally," said the farmer. "But I don't use them when serving the baker," replied the farmer. "Then how do you hope to weigh accurately the butter you sell to your neighbor?" the judge asked. "That's easy," the farmer said. "When the baker began to buy butter from me, I decided to buy my bread from him. I've been using his one-pound loaves to balance my scales when I portion out his butter.
- Are we living lives of integrity?
- Do people see a disparity between the behavior at church and the behavior outside of the walls of the church?
- Do we do things at church for show or go through the motions when our hearts are actually far from the Lord?

5. Because of their Stingy-ness

41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

- Jesus' presence in the temple began with his condemnation of the buyers and sellers for the animal sacrifices and ends with his commendation of one who sacrifices her all for God.
- What a startling contrast!!!
- Jesus say in a position where he could see the religious leaders and the people celebrating Passover put their money into the treasury.
- The text says that "rich people put in large sums."
- When this happened, they made sure people other people knew that they were doing it.

43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of

them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

- In contrast to the poor widow, who gave literally her whole life which were in two small copper coins because it was all she had to live on that day.
- Jesus again demonstrates his authority over the religious leaders because of their stingy-ness and lack of generosity.
- They were consumed to line their pockets with money, Jesus was consumed to follow after His Father's will on the cross.

Jesus had Authority Over the Religious Leaders:

1. Because of their Ignorance

2. Because of their Unbelief

3. Because of their Limited Application of the Scripture

4. Because they were Pompous and Greedy

5. Because of their Stingy-ness

- Every Olympic event has its awards ceremony where the gold medal winner stands on the highest first place block, the second in the next lower block, and the third on the lowest block.
- I can see Jesus standing on the first place block because he clearly dominated the challenges brought before him and clearly won.
- But rather than receiving his first place gold metal, the symbolism of the widow's sacrifice offered us a metaphor to the sacrifice Jesus was to give of himself totally.
- *Philippians 1:5-8* *Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.*
- Jesus did not give his life to stand on the first place block, but to be the sacrificial lamb for the redemption of all humanity.

Offering

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise him above the heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

Minister:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

All:

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying, God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us. Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made. We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness; God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people. Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us. Enliven the church with your Spirit, that we may honor your earth with responsible care. God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers who endure disasters caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed. Strengthen all who are in peril. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy to the nations of the world. Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict. Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor. God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort. Comfort those who mourn; uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil, or awaiting words of hope, especially those we name now silently or aloud [silence]. God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named and those whose needs are known only to you, in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper
Words of Institution
Communion
Prayer

***Hymn** PH 507 "I Come with Joy"

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us
share,
Each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known:
We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

5 Together met, together bound
We'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world,
We'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

***Benediction**

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give
you peace both now and evermore.

***Organ Postlude** (please be seated for the postlude)