**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 32 – The strikeouts & home runs!**

**Baseball bat – homerun! Walking with Jesus through the gospel of Mark – The last week, 3yrs of ministry down to 3 days.**

**(TUESDAY) – Long day - Jesus spends the day teaching…**

**Mark 12:35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, (Matthew says he asked it as a direct question to the Pharisees)**

**Confronted with questions from 6 groups – The Priests, Teachers, Pharisees, Herodian’s, Sadducees, and Scribes… Matthew 22:41 - says he directed this question straight at them…**

**“Why do the teachers of the law say that the Messiah is the son of David? 36 David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.”’ (Jesus is quoting Psalm 110:1 “Yahweh says to my Adoni.” Same word in Greek) 37 David himself calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”**

**Jesus quoting Ps 110 - often overlooked - but it has incredible significance. The most quoted verse in the New Testament – 20X in 3 gospels and 5 letters. Including the first sermon ever recorded in the book of acts. Jesus favorite verse. Why?**

**Here is the question he asked, “Okay you want to drill me – I have a question for you… (this is a question for you too)**

**The scribes call the Messiah, son of David (common reference to messiah) but David says that God called the messiah God. If the Messiah was just an earthy son, why did David and God, both call him God? He must be more than just a human.**

**\*\*\*Do you really know who I am? I the Messiah, am the LORD God!!**

**Jesus is the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, Holy God – in flesh - In that one verse Jesus says, “I am the messiah, and David called me LORD. I am David’s LORD.**

**From Psalm 110:1-4. 7 verses they knew very well about the Messiah**

**- I am the full authority of God – seated at the right hand of God**

**God the Father spoke to God the son – sit at my right hand. Anthropomorphism – place of full power and authority.**

**The NT letters quote this often, saying that is where Jesus is now.**

**- I am triumphant over all evil – crush the enemies v2-3**

**- I am the forever high priest - God calls messiah, forever high priest v4**

**- I am the judge of the nations – judge the nations v5-6**

**And check this out - V36 …speaking by the Holy Spirit, (God the Holy Spirit) declared: “‘The Lord (God the Father) said to my Lord… (God the son).**

**Jesus affirms and refences the Trinity and inspiration of scripture! So powerful, no wonder it’s the most quoted verse in the NT.**

**Mark 12:37b …The large crowd listened to him with delight. (Matt 22:46 - adds - No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.**

**As God Messiah, Jesus now has a few strong words about the religious leaders. With the crowd gathered, his accusers silent, he starts to teach about hypocrisy. To be honest it sounds like modern-day TV preachers and megachurch pastors.**

**Mark 12:38 As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out (beware) for the teachers of the law. (the religious who just confronted him – he gives a warning.)**

**\*\*\* Beware Hypocritical Religious Leaders – The Phony Like to…**

**Beware pastors & Christian celebrities who do these… The strike outs**

**(Jesus says notice this…) They like to walk around in flowing robes**

* **Show off expensive clothes to get attention**

**“Preachers in sneakers” shoes, clothes, watches. Their expensive clothes meant they were too good to do dirty work.**

**and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, (required to stands for them)**

* **Seek out respect from the culture (at times pandering for it)**

**Won’t answer tough questions as to not offend. “Respect me” Do you know who I am? Pictures with celebrities.**

**39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues (upfront by the scrolls & teachers) and the places of honor at banquets. (wealthy dinner parties, honor)**

* **Expect to be treated better than others**

**Expects the best parking, escorted to the best seats at church, has and requires greenroom perks and places of honor**

**40 They devour widows’ houses (took their estates and possessions as gifts)**

* **Take advantage of the poor**

**Take advantage of the poor and needy – taking what little they have, leading them deeper into poverty, manipulating them for gifts of honor – using hurting people for gain.**

**and for a show make lengthy prayers.**

* **Like to impress others with their spirituality**

**I talk to God better than you – I have a “word from God” – God told me this… I know God better than you.**

**Mark 12:40b They will be punished most severely.” (ESV - They will receive the greater condemnation.)**

**Wow – they will be judged harsher and more severe than others! Jesus disgusted by this.**

**(Matthew adds) Matthew 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. (The word of God is still true – live it and obey it) But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. (hypocrites) 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. (then Jesus lays into an incredible scolding – 7 woes on the hypocrites) (Matthew 23 – all for LT)**

**\*Don’t let the hypocrisy of others keep you from following God yourself**

**There is a very strong likelihood that you will be disappointed by a Christian. Someone you respected, pastor, friend, mentor, author, preacher, singer… that does not mean the word of God is not true - it just means we are not good messiah’s.**

**But we are sinners - who need Jesus.**

**Only Jesus is sinless – and the Word of God is always true!**

**(Jesus after criticizing the religious leaders for “devouring the widows house” - walks into the temple… the conversation goes form the self-righteous fools – the rich fools) Mark 12:41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. (temple offerings draws attention – they like to show their wealth and show off their giving) 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, (See pic) worth only a few cents. (she gave a quadran, the smallest roman coin = 1/64 denarius - She had two, she did not give 1 – she gave both – she gave everything)**

**After dealing with arrogant, prideful, selfish, hypocritical people making accusations at him… he sees this beautiful in spirit, humble widow – how refreshing it must have been.**

**(guys comes see this) 43 Calling his disciples to him, (Jesus was pointing out her giving…) Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” (The Home run!)**

**\*\*\* Giving is not about the dollar it is about the devotion.**

**Jesus was not watching the amount; he was watching the heart.**

**Giving Much Doesn’t Require Having Much - if you are giving sacrificially out of love.**

**The others gave out of their wealth (more than enough, they gave a lot, but it was no sacrifice) She gave out of her lack and gave more than all of them.**

**God does not want begrudgingly given, guilt money – He wants the heart that is given with the gift.**

**That why the Bible says - “God loves a cheerful giver” – 2 Cor 9:6-7**

**We should see giving as an act of worship and a privilege.**

**We often when it come to giving ask ourselves – What should I do with my stuff and how much does God want me to give of my stuff to him?**

**The problem with that question is that it missed the primary principle of our possessions…**

**\*\*\* EVERYTHING belongs to GOD**

**Exodus 19:5 - …all the earth is mine… / Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein… (1 Cor 10:26)**

**None of what we have is ours, it is all His we are just stewards.**

**The window had nothing… yet she was a great giver. She understood – it was all God’s.**

**Notice - Jesus did not stop her and give it back – or take up an offering for her… If she had kept it – she would have had 2 coins – if he gave half, she would have had 1 coin. But she gave it all to God – God is able to turn 2 coins into an abundance of provision.**

**- Do you give like the hypocrites or like the widow?**

**A SIMPLE WARNING**

**\*\*\* Jesus has a real loathing for the hypocrites**

**Loathing - despise, disgust, hostility.**

**Those who like to arrogantly try to show that they are better than you.**

**Those that tip God, giving out of their abundance – with no sacrifice.**

**Those who whore attention for themselves.**

**Mark 12:40 “…They will be punished most severely.”**

**The Lord will settle His accounts one day.**

**A SIMPLE ENCOURAGEMENT**

**\*\*\* Jesus has a real love for the humble**

**True Spirituality is not measured by clothes, cars, accolades, and self-righteous prayers – but a broken sincere honest heart of obedience.**

**It is for your benefit to obey his word. That is why he wants you to obey His Word. It is not His benefit!**

**James 4:6 - But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."**

**God doesn’t want your tips – he wants all of you.**

**Your Time tips, volunteer tips, offering tips, verse tips.**

**This is not about money – this is about you and I bowing to Christ the King - in surrender and giving of our whole life.**

**They were hitting foul balls and striking out. But here came this old lady – and she hit it out of the park.**

**The window was a contrast to the scribes and Pharisees.**

**Those religious were arrogant attention hounds with hearts were far from God. Seeking self-glorification, materials wealth, and esteem. BUT - She was a beautiful humble heart that simply obeyed God out of worship.**

**Which one are you – are you a strike out or a home run?**