

920614AM.DOC
GOD OF THE LIVING
MARK 12:18-27

The second platoon is changing Christ in the temple.

The Pharisees and Herodians were stunned, so were the smug, wealthy, aristocratic religious liberals of the day who came to see Him. This reminds me of the wonder of unsuspecting confronting the absolute Master.

- Like Michael Jordan stopping at a pickup basketball game and not being recognized.
- Or, the outposts on Normandie in the fog of D-Day when the hundreds of plans, thousands of warships, hundreds of thousands of soldiers took them off guard.

The Sadducees were outgunned and were facing D-Day. There is one dominant theme in these 10 verses:

God Wants to Initiate and Maintain an Unduring Relationship with People Like You and Me (Repeat)

He started in Eden with Adam and Eve.
He continued with Enoch
Noah
Abraham...

And this morning, God wants to initiate and it you respond maintain an enduring, eternal relationship with you!

There is no higher, grander, greater, loftier calling in the world.

Notice the text and see their pitiful attack and profound answer.
V. 18-23 profile the pitiful attack on Christ.

This was probably a reflection of a fictional story in a popular interest book (between Malachi and Christ - 400 B.C. and 30 A.D.) Tobit 3:8

Woman wed 7 times, each husband bizarrely strangled in bed chamber by demon on wedding night (sounds like an old version of a Stephen King novel).

1. Whatever the source Jesus Christ faces: Christ shows them their problems:

- doubted scriptures (no res)
- belittle spiritual realm (bring down to earthly terms)
- question the power of God

So, they attack and wait.

What a Pitiful Attack on Christ

- I. And, what a profound answer from Christ.
 - A. v. 24 - points to problem -
 1. wandered from truth
 2. ignored scripture
 3. denied power of God
 4. Same three at root of all spiritual problems.
 - B. Christ not only points to problem:
 1. Details future state - its eternal, not earthly.
 2. He proclaims truth
 3. God wants to initiate and maintain an enduring, eternal relationship with you.
- II. And Just in Case Anyone Doubted He Meant Them, He Names Three Examples
 - A. Abraham - (Gen. 12-25) A forgiven idol, Ur worshipped, bigamist (Sarah, Hagar, Keturah + concubines), liar - wife, doubted - Egypt, half-hearted - failed tests, self-willed - Ishmael, father of Jews.
 - B. Issac - (Gen. 25-27) Follows dad in lies (wife), favoritism (Esau) and lack of spiritual perception (Esau)
 - C. Jacob - (Gen. 27-36) Deceptive (dad blind), conniving (pottage stew) (note God calls him by old name...), not good spiritual leader (wife's idols)

- III. God had relationship so dynamic and profound that it demanded a continuing living relationship with God after death.
 - A. Heb. 11
 - B. CHS -- God doesn't make covenants with insects that last an hour, nor does the eternal God covenant with creatures threescore and ten and go out life a candle.
- IV. God Wishes to Mature and Maintain Six things He teaches us:
 - A. Individuality preserved for eternitiy (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob)
 - B. More recognizable and lovable in heaven than now (dross to gold)
 - C. Though no marriage as now, love not reduced but perfected
 - D. Who invented joys in life said next life is 'far better'.
 - E. Remember God invested it all to get you. He wants you dearly.
 - F. Finally, no death, tears, separation in heaven.
- V. God wants to initiate (have you responded?) and maintain. (Are you stopping to hear Him?) an enduring eternal relationship with you!