

2009

Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Pride

It will destroy you.

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Pride will Destroy You*May 13, 2009*

Bob Bradley

Mark 12:35-44

35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?

36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, the LORD said to my LORD, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

As we continue down through the book of Mark chapter 12, keep in mind the events here are still yet taking place on Tuesday of the last week of Jesus' life. He is going to die on Friday, but these events are taking place on Tuesday. Also, keep in mind that in the last several weeks we have learned about the scribes, the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees. Do you remember talking about all of them? This crowd of religious people, and of political people; their purpose and their goal was to try to trap Jesus that He may be discredited in the eyes of the people who were around Him.

If you would have looked at the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Herodians; you would have thought that many of these folks were living right at the foot of the cross. You would have thought that by their actions and deeds that they did that they would have been good people. However, that was not the case at all. They were very devilish. They were being controlled by the spirit that comes from Satan and Satan himself. But these people were not good people. They did not have good motives. They had one thing in mind and that was to trap Jesus and discredit Him and disprove Him.

These events happened on Tuesday and you remember what happened on Sunday when He came into Jerusalem and all the people were praising Him and saying Hosanna to the Son of David. They were claiming Him as being the Messiah, the Son of God. There were thousands upon thousands of people

here in Jerusalem at this time because this is Passover season. Therefore when the religious crowd heard the common people saying that He was the Messiah then they had to do something to try to discredit Him.

Again, He has just cleansed the temple. He goes in and they had set up a flea market inside the temple area; a place where people should have been able to come and worship Almighty God, to come to meditate and pray. However, it was just a place of traffic. It was a place of merchandise. We know Jesus made Him a whip out of some cords or a scourge and He drove out all the animals that were in there. He overturned the money changers tables. He said, "My Father's house is called the house of prayer but you guys have made it a den of thieves."

The hostility here against Him was great. With all the things that they are trying to do here; they are trying to trap Him or destroy Him or lay a trap so that He would be destroyed. Keep that in your mind as we go down through here because that was the whole intent.

As we talked about last week, the scribe that came unto Him and was talking about which is the greatest commandment. Jesus said, "To love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength; and love thy neighbor as thyself." That was the great commandment. He said, "The second is liken unto it, to love your neighbor." That's what we talked about last week. Keep in mind that He is talking to the same crowd here, even though there are different groups in the crowd; He is talking to the same crowd.

Jesus asked them a question

35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?

He is still yet in the temple area. Keep in mind that God had promised Israel a king, a Messiah. He uses the word Christ here. Christ is the word we look at for the "anointed one" when we look at that, but we also get our word Messiah from. When Jesus makes this statement, "How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?" He was asking a question. Keep in mind and I never really thought about this until studying for this lesson.

This crowd—the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians; they had been asking all the question but now Jesus is going to ask a question. I think when I look at the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and I think if I had been dealing with these and if I had the power that Jesus had; I would have just wiped them off. I really would have and you probably would have too. However, we are not like Him in a lot of ways.

But He's asking them a question here. When you read what Matthew says, He actually says, "What think ye of Christ, whose Son is He?" That's a wonderful question that we need to ask ourselves today; "Who is Christ? Who really is Jesus Christ?" That is really the question here. He says here, "How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?" He is asking them a question. But He is asking them a question in a loving way. He knows that they hate Him. He's God. He knows that. He knows that all the traps and all the things they did trying to trip Him up and to deceive Him, even though He knows He

is going to die on Friday; He is giving these folks one more opportunity to recognize and to confess that He really is the Messiah. That goes back to grace again as the sister sang about grace a while ago and also mercy. That is a mercy and a grace that we don't understand. They wanted to kill Him and they were going to kill Him, but yet He is giving them one more opportunity to realize that He is the Messiah.

He asked the question, "How do the scribes say..." Keep in mind that the scribes were the people who read the Old Testament Law, the Psalms and the first five books. They read it and they would translate it. They would write it on different parchments. They would do all that. He asked the question, "How do the scribes say that Christ is the Son of David?"

He was David's Lord too

36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, the LORD said to my LORD, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

He wants them to understand something. Again, the Bible many times in the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would come. He also prophesied that He would come in the lineage of David. He was going to be the Son of David and He was going to sit upon the throne of David. I don't know how many times it says that. He is trying to get them to understand here that when the Messiah comes; He is going to come in the lineage of David. That is what He said here "For David himself said by the Holy Ghost..." in other words, David just didn't figure this out for himself, but he was inspired by the Holy Ghost to say what he said here. If you read Psalms 110 verse 1; this is where Jesus is quoting this verse from. He says "The Lord has said unto my Lord sit down at my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool."

37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

In other words, if David is calling the Messiah his Lord then how can he be his son? Do you see what He is saying there? Do you see what the question is? He is saying that to try to get them to understand that Messiah or Jesus himself is the Messiah and He, the Messiah, was going to come through the lineage of David. They understood that, but they did not understand that He was going to be born of a virgin. They did not get that. They did not understand that He was going to be a person. They did not understand His humanity. They did not understand the human side of their Messiah. They did not get that. They were looking for Messiah. They were looking for someone who was going to give them peace. They were looking for someone that was going to drive out the Romans. They were looking for a utopia. They were looking for a heaven on earth. They were looking for that. The Messiah was going to bring that. But they did not understand that Jesus, the one that had been born in Bethlehem—even though that is where the Scriptures and the scribes said that the Messiah would be born...even though He has fulfilled everything that the Law, and the prophets...said He would do; they could not see that fact. They could not understand the fact that He was going to be flesh and blood. They could not understand that. They could not grasp that. David called Him Lord. He was going to be in the lineage of David, but yet David still yet called the Messiah, the anointed One, the Christ his Lord.

They would not bring themselves down to the point to say “Hey, our Messiah was born on planet earth. They were thinking that when He came that God was going to dispatch Him from heaven—and that He actually did—but He did not come in the way that they thought and the way that they perceived He was going to come. Even though He came exactly the way the Scripture said He was going to come; they would not accept that.

Even today, when you tell people today that if you want to go to heaven you must be born again, a lot of folks don’t want to hear that. You can tell them to give so much money. You can tell them to join the church. You can tell them to sign a card. You can tell them to be baptized. Do you know what they will do? They will flock to you. However, when you tell them that they are going to have to change their lives, they are going to have to quit the sin business and straighten up and live for Jesus Christ; the majority of the people don’t want to hear that. That doesn’t fit into their ideal of religion. That doesn’t fit into their ideal of what God expects out of us.

It doesn’t matter what this world is doing today. It is rocking and reeling and so many folks are going in so many different directions today, but God has laid out a plan. That plan for us to go to heaven is through His Son, Jesus Christ. There is no other way. I don’t care what church you belong to. I don’t care how money you give. I don’t care what all you have done in life. You are not going if you are not saved. Saved people go to heaven. Lost people go to hell. I didn’t say anything about church members. I said, saved people. There are going to be a lot of church members going to hell because they have never been born again. There are going to be many who have carried Bibles, preached, and pastored churches that are going to be lost forever because they have never been born again. That’s Truth! Jesus said that when you read the book.

We’ve done all kinds of things in your name. We’ve cast out devils and done all kinds of stuff in your name. But Jesus said, “Depart from me ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you.” That’s in the book too.

Think about where you are headed

He wanted them to think. He is trying to get them to think. That is one of things about teaching or preaching is that you have to get people to think. If people don’t stop and think about where they are at and where they are going and what the end result of the path that they are on is; then they will never change how they are living. You have to get people to think. That is why it is so important that we preach and teach the Word of God is because when people hear the Word of God preached and taught then Holy Spirit of God speaks to them. He gets them to think. I can’t get people to think. I could sit here and preach my lungs out and you could sit here and sleep. I can do that. Of course, you don’t, but you can. The Holy Spirit of God can get our attention and make us think.

Common People

37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

Do you know what the common, ordinary, everyday people understood? They understood who Jesus was. They understood that He was the Messiah. They heard Him preach. They heard Him teach. They saw Him do many miracles. They knew He was a man that went about doing good. They knew there was no malice, no envy, no strife, no jealousy, and no hatred about Him. They understood that. When He puts this crowd into silence the Bible says "...the common people heard Him gladly."

Even in a world that is wicked there is a group of people who are alive on planet earth today that still yet enjoys hearing the Word of God. They are dwindling every day. We understand that. However, there are still yet a group of people who enjoy hearing the Word of God. Do you know what it does? It blesses us. It encourages us. It feeds us spiritually. It does all those to us.

Anyway, the common people heard Him. That is a real good thought there.

Beware of the scribes/lawyers

He says to them in His teaching, in His doctrine "Beware of the scribes..."

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Keep this in mind. Scribes are lawyers. They dealt with the law. Not only did they read the Old Testament Law and translate it and write it and re-write it; but they also dealt in legal matters that pertained to the Law. If you had a legal matter, then you went to the scribes or the lawyers and they dealt with the matter or issue that you had.

The Bible says "Beware of them...beware of the scribes...beware of the lawyers..." That has not changed much over the last 2000 years.

You still yet need to beware of the lawyers today. all you have to do is watch your TV set, I don't how many times in the course of an hour or two you will see that this lawyer is going to sue this company if you drunk battery acid and it burnt your lungs up then we will sue them. If you did something stupid there is always some lawyer trying to sue somebody. Thank God we have some good Christian lawyers.

But He says "beware of them." When He uses the word "beware" it means we need to watch them. We need to keep our eye on them.

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Here is what is happening. He says here beware of them. You watch them, the scribes. One of the things if you read the book of Proverbs, not only that but you can read about this throughout the whole

Scriptures is that pride is a deadly thing. Pride is something that destroys so many people. Pride will destroy—I don't care who you are—pride will destroy you if you follow it long enough. If you follow it long enough, it will destroy you.

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Do you know what the scribes/the lawyers loved to do. They would wear real long robes. These robes made them appear real religious. If you go back in the Old Testament and look at the garments that the high priest would wear; there were certain things about it that distinguished these people as being religious. It would distinguish them as someone that would work in the temple area, someone that was righteous. The scribes here, being lawyers, loved to wear long robes. They loved to wear the best clothing that they could find. Jesus is not condemning nice clothes. But they dressed in a way to attract attention. They had their long robes. The Bible tells us they had long clothing and they would put a wide border on the bottoms of the big robes they wore. They would have tassels on the bottom of them. Instead of being the size that should have been on the robes; they would make them much bigger. It would make them appear to be more righteous. Their borders would be wider. The **Phylacteries** was a little leather box that had different scriptures written in it. But the scribes would make **big** leather boxes and put them on to appear more righteous.

I want to say a couple of things here. Even in our world today, people dress to attract attention. Women do and men do. If our manner of dress, if just buy clothes and if our clothes we just buy and the way that we dress is just to get people to look at us then that is pride. That is going to get us into trouble somewhere. I don't care if you are man or woman. Men and women both do it. We dress in a way to draw people's attention, to get them to look at us. That is wrong. We should never dress to get people to look at us. There is nothing wrong with nice clothes and there is nothing wrong with loud clothes necessarily, but if that is the only reason we wear pink shirts (nobody here has a pink shirt on tonight) is just to get attention then we are wearing them for the wrong reason.

That is what the lawyers here were doing. They would dress to make themselves look religious.

Do you know what I could do? I could turn my collar backwards all I want to but that does not make me righteous. I can go buy the best clothes that money could buy but that does not make me right with God. You ladies could buy the best dresses but that does not make you right with God.

Let's don't try to draw attention to ourselves. Let's try to live in a way and dress in a way that we draw attention to Almighty God; to Christ.

Again, He is not saying that we shouldn't have nice things. He is not saying that we shouldn't dress nice. I think He wants us to do that.

Greetings in the marketplace

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Not only did they dress and love their long clothing but they loved the greetings in the marketplace.

When you met these lawyers in the market place, they demanded you to greet them.

I have never saw so much in our world today as you see—reverend, doctor, director, president—and all these different titles that we want to hang on people, if you don't address some of these people that way then you offend them. "I'm Dr. so and so. I've got my degree on the wall." It may be from some mail order company, but they still yet have it.

Long prayers

The lawyers here were so filled with pride that when you would meet them in the marketplace or wherever it was at; they demanded that you speak to them in a right way. Not only that, but also when you read on down through here, they loved to pray. They would make real long prayers. They would sit on the corners dressed up on their whole religious garb and they wanted you to respect them when you talked to them. But they would sit there and make real long prayers. They would pray and pray.

Jesus made the statement, "These guys think they are going to be heard for their much speaking." You can put together the prettiest prayer that you could write it all out, memorize and recite it all that you want to; however, if God is not in it and if God is not in your life then it is just a bunch of dead words. That is all that it is. They thought they were going to be heard by Almighty God because of their much speaking. They thought that people would hear them praying and think that they are really somebody because of all their words that they were saying in a real long prayer.

I learned something a long time. We don't see that here and I thank God that we don't. I been places before that when you come to the altar to pray—when you have family prayer—(when God is in it there is nothing wrong with it) but I've heard people come to the altar, holler, hack, and they do all things for fifteen minutes and they were deader than a hammer. I learned something else too. When you have people who do that at the altar then usually they do not do that at home.

It is great to come here and pray. It is great to bring our petitions here before the Lord together as a family. It is great to do that.

However, if this is the only time that we pray is when we come here then we are missing something. We need to straighten up. We need to spend more time praying. If that is all that we are praying is here; then I can understand why that sometimes our lives is a wreck that they are in.

Many times the only Scriptures that people read or hear read are the Scriptures that I read here on Sunday and Wednesday. If that is all the Scripture that you hear read, then you are missing out on something in your life. If that is all that you hear read, you are never going to get anywhere in your

Christian life. I don't care who you are. I'm not saying that you are not saved. I'm not saying you are not going to heaven. I'm saying that you are going to be put upon a shelf and you may have been put up there a long time ago—if that is all the scripture that you are acquainted with is the scripture that you hear read at church—then our spiritual life is not what it needs to be. (Thank God that you are here.) I'm just saying then our spiritual life is not what it needs to be.

Chief seat

39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

Not only do they love to pray and love greetings in the market place; not only do they love to wear the clothes, but the Bible says they love the chief seat in the synagogue. When you look at the synagogue and what went on there; the synagogue was a place of teaching. Someone would be appointed to read and whoever it would be that would read would expound on the scriptures.

They had seats that sat, no doubt, like this; but they also had seats that faced the crowd. The important people, the dignitaries of the community would always sit on the seats facing the crowd. This is where the lawyers always wanted to sit. They always wanted to sit on the chief seats so that people would think that they were somebody important.

Isn't it sad when somebody is eaten up with so much of themselves that they live like that? Do you know people like that? I know a whole lot of people like that. I've dealt with many of them over the years. The majority of them go to church. That's sad but it is true.

These guys were eaten up with self. That is why Jesus said that we need to beware of them. We need to watch them. We need to keep our eye on people like that. People like that may smile at you. They may pat you on the back. They may tell you how much they love you. But if they are in love with themselves then you had better keep all eyes on them.

39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

When they were having a feast, the fellow or the householder...would sit at the head of the table. The one of most importance would sit at his right side. Then the next one important would sit at his left side. Then the next one important would sit at his right side and so on. They went down in importance that way. That is how they would sit at his feast.

He says here "...they love the uppermost rooms at the feasts." Again, not only did they wear the garb of being religious, not only did they love the greetings in the marketplace, not only did they make long prayers on the street corners, not only did they love the chief seat in the synagogue; but He also says here that they loved the uppermost seats of the feasts. Again, He is telling that these folks were absolutely eaten up with it. Not only on how they dressed, but how they talked, what they did when they went to church, but even at a banquet. They were eaten up with self. In every aspect of their life "self" was ole number one. That is sad when we get that way.

Baiting widows

40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

Again, the lawyers were someone that dealt in people's estates. When someone died, or whenever dealing with someone's estate then you went to a lawyer. They dealt with that for you. However, do you know what they would do? They would try to persuade these widows to give their money to the temple. They then would rob the temple. Not only would they do that, but they would charge some extraordinary fee from these widows just do for them the service that needed to be done.

Jesus said "...beware of these guys...that devour and eat up widow's houses..."

40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

He says "...for a pretence..." in other words, "for a show". When the widow would come into the lawyer's office, he probably would sit around hoot, holler and pray and do all kinds of things here to persuade the widow that he was a godly individual. Do you know what he was doing? He was just baiting them because he wanted their money. It was just all a big show.

I don't think that God despises anything anymore than **pride**. There is nothing else. If you look at satan, he got lifted up in pride and he was cast out. That's in there; isn't it? I don't think that there is anything else that He despises any more than **pride**. There is none of us that have any reason to stick our chest out and act like we are somebody, or like we are better than somebody else. It is sad to see so many folks who go to church that are so ate up with self, but yet they say they love God when their actions don't prove that. Do you know why? It is because it is all about self. It is all about me. It is about "a number one."

Friend, listen.

I'm afraid there will be many who miss out on going to heaven simply because instead of putting Jesus Christ number one; they wanted ole number one to be number one. It's not going to work.

Widow casts more than all into the treasury

41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

Jesus is still at the temple. They had trumpet like objects that were big at the top and went down in size like a horn would. When people walked by these, they had several of them in the temple area. When people walked by them they could just cast their money in. That is what Jesus is saying here. He is seeing that as the rich came in they were casting into the treasury.

41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

The rich were coming by and they were casting in a lot of money.

42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

The rich came by and they are throwing in all kinds of money. Here comes one poor little widow and she cast in two mites. Depending on which of the scales you want to use here; some say that it would have been worth about fifty cents that she is casting in. The rich are casting in all kinds of money, but here comes one little lady and she casts in fifty cents.

43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

The rich were coming by and casting in gobs of money. The rich were casting in out of their **abundance**. When you look at what they were casting in, compared to what the widow was casting in; she was casting in more than they all were casting in because she was casting in **all** she had.

When you look at the **percentages** of what she was casting in and what they were casting in; it did not add up. The wealthy may throw in a lot of money. However, some people can throw in a hundred dollar bill that would mean the same thing to them as someone else throwing in a dollar bill. That is because some people have much more money than others. The rich were in much. They were throwing in all kinds of stuff here, but Jesus said "Hey this little widow woman here has thrown more than all of them because she has cast in her living."

God set a standard up for us in giving and we know what that is, but here is the thing: when you teach people to live godly lives, to live right, to listen to the Holy Spirit of God, to live as we should live; money is never an issue. If we are living right, in the will of God as we should be living, being directed by the spirit of God; we realize that it all belongs to God anyway. It's all His. Our house is His. Our car is His. Our clothes are His. The money you have in your wallet or pocket book right now all belongs to Him. When we live that way, then giving to God and to God's work is never a problem. When we start living a long way away from Him then that is where money becomes a problem.

God loves us. Jesus Christ died for us. He'll save you today.

As I said earlier, in the beginning; He was talking, He was giving the scribes, the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the lawyers and this whole crowd one more opportunity to make things right with Him. They had one more opportunity to confess and to realize that He was the Messiah even though they had done everything they could do to destroy Him. They had lied about Him. They had spread all kinds of rumors about Him but yet He and His love for them was giving them another opportunity for them to confess that He was Jesus the Christ.

Do you know what He is doing today? In a world that is spitting in the face of God today, when you look at the world as a whole, they are not seeking God. They don't love God. They are not following God.

God and His great love for mankind; He is extending His love and mercy one more day and one more time for people to come and repent.

Remember this.

There will be a day that you will have your last opportunity to repent and that day may be today. I don't when it is. I don't have any idea when that will be. But it may be today. I would encourage you to make things right with the Lord today.

Come—