

**Oct 11, 2015 Mark 12:1-12**

**O. Intro:**

\*Last January I went to Tyndall AFB in Florida to gain insight into their mission.

-The first morning there, a friend, who was very knowledgeable about their mission and who had graciously flown there just to help me out, said:

- "Okay, Terry, what do you want to know, who do you want to meet?"

-I replied, "Wade, I have no idea what I need to know, or who I need to meet...you are going to have to ask and answer those questions for me."

\*There was a famous debate years ago between two well-known theologians.

\*(Tillich, Barth)

\*One said our theology should be an "answering theology"

-This means the world (culture, people far from God) ask the questions...which the church (Christians) then answer.

\*So our starting point is primarily about "relevance"...meeting psychological "felt needs"

\*The other said, "no", "The world doesn't even know the right questions to ask."

\*"God must reveal the questions as well as the answers."

\*People who are experiencing a heart attack may feel pain in their back, neck, or jaw...they may also have a sharp stomach ache.

\*The felt need is very different from the actual need.

\*Of course we should not seek "irrelevance" or fail to consider and address "felt needs"

\*But we must understand that "felt needs" are symptomatic of real needs...and our ultimate needs all find their answers in the gospel.

\*Truth is always the most relevant thing in the world and it always answers our greatest actual need, regardless of whether it is seen as such or not.

**Mark 12:1 He then began to speak to them in parables: ("them" being the leaders who opposed him) "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. 2 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. 5 He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. 6 "He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 "What then will the owner of the vineyard do?**

**He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Haven't you read this scripture: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" 12 Then they looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.**

\*The parable (a story with a main point) begins with the building of the Winery

\*The winery is then turned over to tenants in a crop-sharing arrangement...all this would have been very familiar to the listeners.

\*When the time came to share the produce, the tenants repudiated the contract.

\*The owner sent a succession of his servants to try and collect...some were beaten some were killed.

\*In the OT the prophets were frequently called "The servants of God" (Jer 7:25)

\*This parable points to what is clearly illegal and outrageous behavior.

\*It also clearly connected what was happening then with what had happened in the past with God's servants...the prophets.

\*They too had been rejected, mistreated, some killed.

\*Finally the "dearly loved son" was sent.

\*What happened next was even more outrageous...they murdered the son.

\*Clearly prophetic of what was to soon happen to Jesus.

\*Then Jesus asked a question: "What then will the owner of the vineyard do?"

\*And he answers his question: "He will come and bring justice"

\*V. 10, 11 is a quote from Ps 118:22-23

**"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"**

\*The context of that Psalm is: The people of God were at one time international rejects...slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years.

\*Then God made then a nation, in fact "The Nation" in the world

\*They went from international nobodies...to the capstone...the primary nation in the world.

\*Jesus applied this Psalm to himself...because he, the rejected one, would become the capstone of human history...the savior of the world.

\*Later when the early church was proclaiming the gospel they used this same quote...

**Acts 4:11 He is**

**“ ‘the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the capstone.’**

\*It was clear to the leaders in Jerusalem that he had spoken this parable against them.

\*They were not being held accountable for past sins, the sins of their ancestors against the prophets were not their responsibility.

\*They were being held to account for their current, ongoing refusal to humble themselves and submit themselves to God.

\*Saul who became Paul fought the Church out of ignorance...when Jesus came to him after his resurrection and challenged him...Paul repented on the spot.

\*These men were different...this is not ignorance...this is proud rebellion...current, ongoing, willful rebellion.

\*This is clash of worldviews that has caused a clash of wills.

\*A clash of worldviews...what is reality?

\*Is Jesus the Messiah...are his truth claims legit?

\*And a clash of wills...will they submit their will to the rightful authority of Jesus...or not?

\*A worldview is not merely what you believe and do but the framework from which your beliefs and actions flow.

\*Lewis presents this concept beautifully...."I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

\*This is a worldview...the lens by which we see everything.

\*Its a fundamental orientation of the heart.

\*It is our commitment to and understanding of the "really real"

**\*For example....look at these two fundamental differences in "seeing" the world:**

**Psa. 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. 2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: 7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of the air, and**

**the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**\*Stephen Crane** "A man said to the universe: 'Sir, I exist.' 'However,' replied the universe, 'The fact has not created in me a sense of obligation.'"

**\*Tennyson wrote in response to the death of his close friend,**

**"Behold, we can know not anything; I can but trust that good shall fall, at last--far off--at last, to all. And every winter change to spring. So runs my dream; but what am I? An infant crying in the night; and infant crying for the light; and with no language but a cry."**

**\*A worldview (or vision for life) is how we see the world...not merely what we see but how we see what we see.**

**\*If I see a beautiful painting or hear beautiful music...by what basis do I consider it beautiful?**

**-Beauty=Photons bouncing off pigment smashing into my retinas?**

**-Beauty=Sound waves moving through the air and vibrating a piece of flesh in my ear canal?**

**\*Or...I am in touch with the beauty and creativity of God?**

**\*"Well Terry, a non-believer could have his or her "heart" touched by beauty."**

**\*Yes...but what exactly would that mean...one materialist (matter is all there is, not into money)...said "The brain secretes thought as the liver secretes bile."**

**\*So a "touched heart" is really just the "brain secreting thoughts that impact emotions, which are just glands secreting chemicals."**

**\*So is beauty..."the secretion of chemicals"?**

**\*I feel love...is it a complex chemical reaction or the reality of me being made in the image of God...who is "love"?**

**\*Darwin said that he was increasingly unable to enjoy the music of Handel's Messiah...something he had at one time loved.**

**\*Why? His eardrums had not stopped vibrating; his brain had not stopped secreting "thought" or his glands secreting chemicals.**

**\*His worldview had turned transcendence (more than the mere physical) into pure immanence (only the physical).**

**\*The music that had at one time touched his soul...something he no longer believed he possessed...was now just vibrations rattling a flap of skin in his head...transcendence was lost and so was meaning.**

**\*We can hold our worldviews consciously or not, consistently or not...but it is the basis by which we determine what is real.**

\*Ultimately our worldview is revealed in the way we live our lives...not in terms of perfection but in overall life direction...the orientation of our hearts.

\*If I say "I believe that God is alive and involved in human affairs and responds to our prayers."  
-But never pray...what does that say about my actual worldview?

\*If I sometimes pray and regret when I fail to pray...what does that indicate?  
-Likely that I do have a worldview that includes an involved God.  
-And I need that God, because I am weak.

**\*Acts 2...3 groups saw the same event in space and time...three different responses:**

**\*The responses** were the results of their presuppositions...their starting points:

1. Confused "What is this?"
2. Confident (wrong) "They are drunk."
3. Clarity "This is God"

\*A worldview is not merely a story or set of presuppositions...but it can be expressed these ways...it is built on presuppositions and told in life stories.

\*For instance one story begins with a large bang then proceeds through the evolution of the cosmos...stars and planets are formed.

\*Something sparks a chemical process on one tiny blue planet...perhaps a lightening strike...eventually a creature crawls from the sea, sprouts legs...time passes, so the story goes...and finally here we are sitting in church in Wichita, KS...experiencing complex chemical reactions...because that is all there really is.

\*Another story begins..."In the beginning God created..."

\*And proceeds to..."she gave some to her husband, and he ate it...and they hid because they were ashamed"

\*And then..."The word became flesh and dwelt among us"

\*And..."The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom."

\*And then, there was you and me...in Wichita, KS, worshiping the "Word that became flesh"

\*These stories either define what is real and true or not...but when believed, and lived the implications are dramatically different.

\*They lead to fantastically different outcomes...mentally, physically, socially, internationally.

\*There is a narrative that is real...there are presuppositions that are true...and all others are not.

\*Do not make the mistake that we must have perfect knowledge in order to know what is true...this is never the case for anyone other than God...only he will ever have perfect knowledge.

\*We have accurate and adequate knowledge...this is enough to live our lives well...this is enough to say..."We know the truth."

\*For instance I can say "I know the truth about turning on the lights in this room"

-Without implying that I understand all there is to know about electricity.

\*In addition, do not make the mistake of believing that some worldviews are based on faith and some on fact (knowledge).

\*At the bottom of every worldview there is faith, or belief.

\*James Sire tells the story that helps us understand this:

\*A little boy came home from school to talk with his father:

- "Teacher showed us a globe and said the world is surrounded by space...how can that be, what holds up the world?"

- Knowing it was a child's question...he gave him a child's answer

- "It's a camel."

- That made sense; he had seen pictures of camels holding things up...but as he thought another question formed.

- "Dad, what holds up the camel?"

- "A kangaroo" said dad.

- Satisfied for awhile...the child returned and asked...

- "What holds up the kangaroo?"

- Now dad knowing he will run out of animals...then decides to go straight to the largest of all land animals...

- "An elephant"

- Of course we know what comes next..."What holds up the elephant?"

- Now Dad knows this is an infinite series of questions with no end in sight...so he answers finally...

- "Son...It's elephant all the way down"

\*There is no way for the father to stop the logical regress...so he must stop at a first cause...an elephant.

\*Now what if the boy was older and the answer was...

"Son, Gravity holds the world"

"What's that?"

"The force between two bodies (earth and sun) is equal to the gravitational constant multiplied by the product of the masses of the two bodies divided by the square of the distance between them....gravity."

\*Intrigued...the son studied gravity online and after a time came back to dad and said...

"Gravity is neat Dad, but why is there gravity"

\*"Well son, you see the universe is a uniformity of natural causes and the law of gravity expresses this in a mathematical way"

\*"But why is the universe uniform? What makes it be this way? Why is it here at all?"

\*Now dad has gotten down to what holds up the elephant...the son has been asking physical questions...now he's asking metaphysical questions...beyond the scope of physics, science.

\*Why is there something rather than nothing? Why is there "this" rather than something else?

\*At that point the dad can say..."That's just the way it is."

\*Carl Sagan's version of "It's the elephant all the way down"..."The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be."

\*Make no mistake about it...This is not based on fact, or science, or physics...this is a pure statement of faith, equivalent to a religious doctrine...it is what he believed but could not prove...it is his starting presupposition for his worldview.

\*His elephant all the way down.

\*But Dad he could also say..."God made it that way."

\*The son can again ask "Why, did God make it"

\*Then he can answer..."Son, God has spoken to us and told us why...lets read."

\*There are billions of individualized worldview perspectives: as many as there are people.

\*But there is one ultimate reality....some views align with reality some don't.

\*Some say there are multiple realities but if you press them...they will eventually have to get to UR...The elephant that goes all the way down.

\*There are many variations on worldviews...but a limited number of ideas about who or what is UR.

**\*The two most prevalent perspectives in the West (with many derivatives) are:**

\*The cosmos is a uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system or an open system.

\*Sounds more complex than it is...simply means "Drop a rock it will fall"

\*Closed system...it will always fall.

\*Open system...it will always fall...unless God decided it fit his purposes to intervene in the falling and this time it floated and did not fall.

## 1. The cosmos is a uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system.

-All there is matter and energy, physical cosmos that is governed by what we call natural laws...there is nothing or nonone outside the physical system...it is closed.

-Miracles are by default...impossible...if a man rises from the dead...it was not a miracle...it was because of some physical law we do not yet understand.

\*This is the prevailing scientific worldview (though there are many scientists who do not hold it).

\*It is not based on science but on presuppositions...a starting point that disbelieves in God...with no possibility of proving this presupposition based on any science.

\*Jesus showed the power of presuppositions in his own ministry.

**-Luke 16:31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”**

\*Why not? Their presuppositions would not allow them to believe.

## 2. The cosmos is a uniformity of cause and effect in an open system

\*Normally, things happen normally.

\*Drop a rock, it falls.

\*Die...stay dead.

\*But since there is more than a physical cosmos...God is ultimate reality not the universe...he can intervene.

\*Our world is a world of order...cause and effect, reaping and sowing...but it is an open system.

\*God can and has intervened.

**Gal. 4:4..."When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman..."**

\*Normally, women cannot conceive without a male sperm...but since the cosmos is "open" not "closed" one woman did.

\*There is nothing irrational or unscientific about this...if the universe is open.

\*The implications are not just philosophical...they are immensely practically.

**\*Let's look at two big areas of application: morality and meaning:**

### **Morality:**

\*If the universe is closed...matter is all there is...morality is not a "real" thing in the sense that there is some transcendent reason to be moral.



\*Morality is an invention.

\*If I invent morality then why would I choose sacrifice over self-serving if I did not find satisfaction in sacrifice?

\*My spouse no longer pleases me...I find no pleasure in loving her or him...I am out.

\*The so called "new atheists" talk about the harm done by religion in history...but atheism...practical atheism (like Nazism) and philosophical atheism like Marx and Stalin and Mao held have murdered hundreds of millions.

\*If morality is a social or personal invention...why not the death camps of Nazism or the Gulags of Communism?

\*Who are you to tell them how to run their countries, their lives?

\*"They hurt others"

\*"So...by what basis do you say that hurting others is wrong?"

\*Personal conviction...they personally disagree.

\*Social norms...they have a different society.

\*Atheism, or Deism, or Nihilism, or postmodernism...provide no real basis for morality.

\*We can assign or invent morality...but it is an invention...we cannot really argue with someone who invents a different one than we hold to.

\*On what basis does a person who says its "matter all the way down" critique ISIS?

\*Some materialist philosophers who are at least consistent in what they say.

\*Alexander Pope..."Whatever is, is right."

\*The problem is...they do not and cannot live consistently with their own belief system.

\*If you poured hot coffee over Mr. Pope's his head, rather than in his cup he would not cry out "Whatever is, is right"...he would be outraged and cry out that you "did him wrong."

### **Meaning:**

\*Likewise worldviews that do not have God as their ultimate reality have no real basis for meaning...(we will go into this in more depth in the RCT class...if you are interested.)

\*They can invent meaning...but inventing meaning is like inventing an imaginary friend...

\*Your imaginary friend is fine if he helps you with your psychological needs...but if your car breaks down and you need a real ride to a real place...your imaginary friend is not going to come through for you.

\*Likewise imaginary meaning does not sustain people through actual life storms.

\*When real life overwhelms our ability to cope...our contrived meaning...which is an illusion...doesn't hold.

\*A chaplain friend sent me some data this week regarding suicide in the military.

\*There has been a record spike in suicide and the research (secular) indicates that a lack of participatory belief in God (worldview not just theological belief) is clearly a factor in the lives of those who attempt and complete suicides.

\*I am not saying a person who commits suicide is not a Christian, there are many factors.

\*My point is simply this....your worldview...the fundamental orientation of a heart...has real implications for meaning.

\*If there is no such thing as:

**Rom. 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**

\*There is only the random, the unguided, the unplanned...then meaning is a meaningless word.

\*Of course many would say "This is the truth" we must come to grips with it...embrace meaninglessness.

\*But again...when pressed these people are unable to live consistently with their own view.

\*So many who claim "atheism" as a worldview...live as if "things happen for a reason."

\*Either atheism is true **or** things happen for a reason...but both cannot be true.

**\*Back to Mark 12 then on to an application:**

\*Jesus asked..."**Haven't you read...**"

**\*“10 The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”**

\*It was rhetorical...he knew these religious experts had read that famous Psalm 118.

\*In fact just a few days earlier the people were chanting part of that Psalm in the streets as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

**\*“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Psalms 118:26)**

\*They knew the content of the Psalm but their worldview did not allow them to see Jesus as the fulfillment of it.

\*He was the Capstone...the finished work of God for our redemption...and it is marvelous in the eyes of those who can or will see it.

### **APPLICATION:**

\*There is a tendency to believe that what we believe is a weak bridge (based on faith)

\*While what others believe is a strong bridge (based on facts or data)

\*In reality everyone starts with belief.

\*From there that belief either corresponds with reality or not.

\*Does it best fit all the data?

\*It is self-contradictory or consistent?

\*Is it able to be lived out?

\*When you are struggling with your faith..."How can this be true?" or "Is this true?"

\*Realize that it is never fact vs faith...it is always competing "belief" systems.

\*Who is putting their faith in the things that are factually true?

\*The Christian faith, though not always lived consistently by Christians is coherent, it explains what we see, and when lived out...works.

\*Reality, the Cosmos, human life...is fantastic, unbelievable, impossible...but here we are.

\*We exist...something is true about "how we got here" "why we are here"

\*Now...what belief system lines up with the world as it is?

\*We believe in physics...we live in a world of uniformity of cause and effect.

\*We also believe in the creator of physics and the entire physical cosmos...he lives outside of cause and effect...he is the first cause and in ultimate control.

\*There are many proofs and evidences:

\*General revelation: creation and conscience

\*Most important and powerful...Jesus Christ.

\*Recently a friend who came to Christ from another faith system said the historical uniqueness and complete integration of the words and deeds of Jesus was the most compelling factor in his conversion.

\*Jesus is the perpetual crossroad for the human heart...go down one path and experience the life of God, go down another and descend into darkness apart from God.

\*This message is primarily for believers...I would be happy if someone who does not yet follow Christ were drawn to the gospel this morning.

\*But mostly I want you, as a follower of Christ, to live with confidence.

\*Of course you "believe" everyone does...life is a matter of faith.

\*Everyone has a worldview...every worldview has a starting point...your starting point is...

**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

\*What you believe aligns with reality...don't let fear or doubt hamper a life of joyful obedience...taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **SMALL GROUP NOTES**

#### **Mark 12:1-12**

#### **Intro:**

\*What are some situations where the "Symptoms" do not directly point to the cause? (House problems, health problems, relationship problems, etc.)

\*What are some the "symptoms" in our culture that people see as the root problem or possibly assign to another "symptom"? (For instance...shootings, teen pregnancy, drug abuse)

#### **Read:**

**Mark 12:1 He then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. 2 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. 5 He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. 6 "He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 "What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Haven't you read this scripture: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 11 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" 12 Then they looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.**

#### **Discuss:**

1. A parable is different from an allegory. In a parable there is generally one primary point. In an allegory there are many hidden meanings in the various components of the story. Clearly the point of this parable is the gospel. But in addition, how does this parable reveal how God has been reaching out to people throughout the years?

2. Why have people been so obstinate in their response to God? (Sin is the obvious answer...but unpack that some).

3. Ron Sire wrote that "For any of us to be fully conscious intellectually we should not only be able to detect the worldviews of others but be aware of our own— why it is ours and why in the light of so many options we think it is true."

\*Everyone has a "worldview" whether is it held consciously or consistently or not.

\*What are some reasons you can think of that make it so important to be able to articulate your own worldview (and evaluate it) as well as be able to understand the worldviews of people God has placed in your life?

4. What is a worldview?

\*"Every person carries in his head a mental model of the world--a subjective representation of external reality." Toffler

\*"A set of beliefs about the most important issues of life." Nash

\*"The maps they have of reality that use for living." Kraft

\*"A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being." Sire

\*How would you define "worldview"?

5. The main components of a worldview include: (there are, of course, other ways to describe these components but this list is generally descriptive of all worldviews)

- a. Who or what is Ultimate Reality
- b. Who of what is man?
- c. What is our problem and solution?
- d. How do we know anything?
- e. What is our purpose?
- f. What happens when we die?
- g. How do we know right and wrong?
- h. How does my worldview shape my choices?

\*Using these questions, work together as a group to compile a Christian worldview.

6. Ultimately a worldview is revealed in life actions. Use the list from question 5 to describe a worldview of a person who gives intellectual assent to Christianity but lives as if God may not be real or involved.

7. Everyone operates with presuppositions.

\*For instance if scientists did not assume the universe was a uniformity of cause and effect they would not attempt to discover "laws" to help them understand science. But there is no way to "prove" uniformity of cause and effect, it is assumed or presupposed.

\*What are some other "unproven" presuppositions we operate with? Using the illustration from the sermon..."what is the elephant all the way down?"

8. We can find "evidences" of God's existence but why are these evidences not convincing for some people?

9. Understanding a person's worldview is an important way to understand what their presuppositions are. For instance if you were dealing with someone from an Eastern religious worldview they would not be impressed with "proofs" or "reason." Their presupposition is that we cannot trust our reason. Knowing this, how might you go about trying to reach this person with the gospel?

### Apply:

\*This all sounds very philosophical but it is very important. If you are not wired to be interested in topics such as this let's make some personal applications that show why it is important.

1. Remember, a worldview is best revealed in what a person does. How can your understanding of worldviews help you help people who are struggling with their faith? Perhaps they can verbalize the gospel but in key parts of their life they are living very differently. For instance, how could you help them understand their own presuppositions and the consequences of those ideas?

2. Perhaps you struggle with your own faith. You sometimes are tempted to believe that those who do not have faith have a stronger position than you do. Remember, everyone has faith. Everyone. Everyone's worldview starts with presuppositions, unproven starting points.

\*Think about the fact that everyone holds their worldview by faith...yours (If you are Christian) is based on faith but what are the facts behind your faith?

3. In all of world history there has only been one person who lived an exemplary life, was historically significant, and claimed to be God. This person is Jesus. In addition there is vast evidence that he performed miracles, was crucified (claiming to die for our sins) and rose from the dead. The uniqueness of Jesus in world history (not to mention the OT prophecies that predicted his life in great detail) set Christianity apart.

\*How would it impact your own choices if you were to more consistently "live" what you "profess?"

\*How can thinking about the fact that everyone lives by faith, strengthen your faith?

**THE GOSPEL OF**

# MARK



**Mark 12:1-12**

**“FOR EVEN THE  
SON OF MAN  
DID NOT COME  
TO BE SERVED,  
BUT TO SERVE,  
AND TO GIVE  
HIS LIFE AS A  
RANSOM FOR  
MANY.”**

**MARK 10:45**

**J. STILL**

**Mark 12:1-6 He then began to speak to them in parables:**  
**“A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’**



**Mark 12:7-12 “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. Haven’t you read this scripture: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” Then they looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.**

**“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”**

**"He is 'the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the capstone.'"**

**Acts 4:11**

**A fundamental orientation of the heart**

**What is "really real"**

**What you look “through” not what you  
look “at”**

**Psa. 8:1-9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**"A man said to the universe: 'Sir, I exist.'  
'However,' replied the universe, 'The fact has not  
created in me a sense of obligation.'"**

**Crane**

**"Behold, we can know not anything; I can but trust  
that good shall fall, at last--far off--at last, to all.  
And every winter change to spring. So runs my  
dream; but what am I? An infant crying in the  
night; and infant crying for the light; and with no  
language but a cry."**

**Tennyson**

M E S S I A H,  
A N  
O R A T O R I O.

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Set to Mufick by GEORGE-FREDERIC HANDEL, Esq.

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MAJORA CANAMUS.

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*And without Controversy, great is the Mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the Flesh, justify'd by the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the World, received up in Glory.*

*In whom are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge.*

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L O N D O N:

Printed and Sold by THO. WOOD in Windmill-Court, near West-Smithfield, and at the THEATRE in Covent-Garden. 1743.

[Price One Shilling.]



Beautiful?

**His worldview had turned the  
transcendent into mere immanence**

**With the loss of the transcendent came  
the loss of meaning**



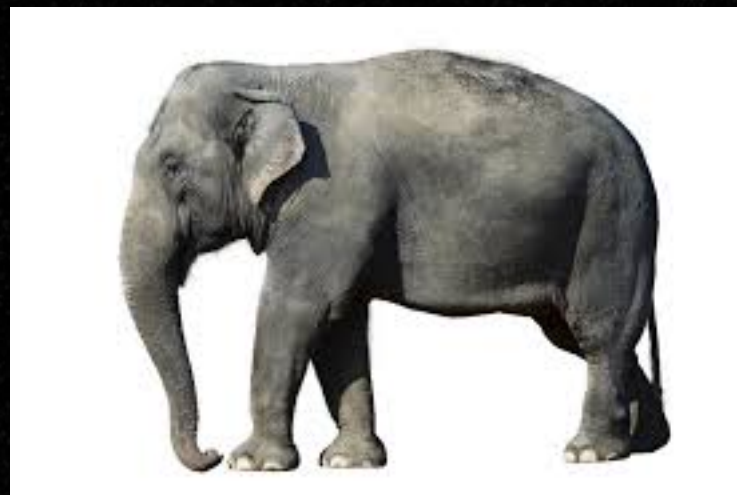
## **Acts 2**

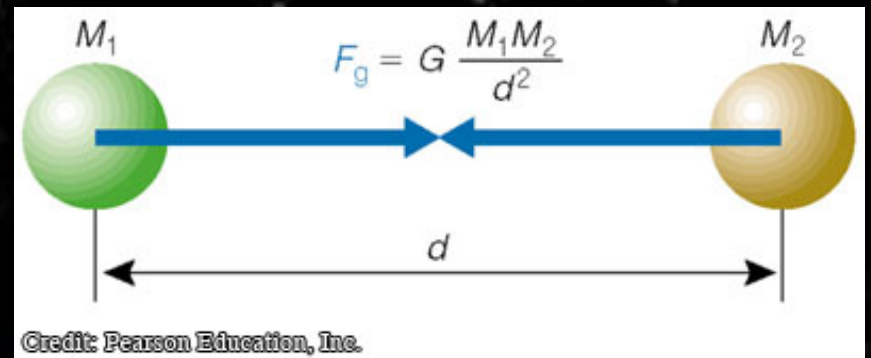
- 1. Confused**
- 2. Confidence**
- 3. Clarity**

**Two Narratives...**

**We do not need perfect knowledge only  
accurate and adequate knowledge**

**Everyone, at the bottom, starts with  
"belief"**





***There is one Ultimate Reality...there is a  
view that aligns with it, other views  
don't***

**1. A uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system**

**2. A uniformity of cause and effect in an open system**





**A uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system**

**\*A presupposition, a "belief"**

**Luke 16:31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”**

**A uniformity of cause and effect in an  
open system**

**Gal. 4:4..."When the time had fully  
come, God sent his Son, born of a  
woman..."**



# **Morality**

**"Whatever is, is right"**  
**Alexander Pope**

# Meaning

**"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."**

**Romans 8:28**

**"Haven't you read...'The stone the  
builders rejected has become the  
capstone; the Lord has done this, and it  
is marvelous in our eyes?'"**

**Everyone begins with belief**



**What belief best fits what is "there"?**

**John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

