

### The Next Step

Mark 1:15 – “. . . the kingdom of God is at hand \_\_\_\_\_  
in the gospel.”

You must \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God  
(Mark 12:35-37).

- Turn from \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus Christ  
and trust what the Bible teaches.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God  
(Mark 12:38-40).

- Turn from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

You must \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God  
(Mark 12:41-44).

- Turn from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- We do not give \_\_\_\_\_ God will do something for  
us but \_\_\_\_\_ what He has already done for us.

Knowing the commandments gets you \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
kingdom of God, \_\_\_\_\_ gets you in.

### Personal observations from the message.

1. How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?
2. What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?
3. What is a question you have?

### Discussion questions from the message.

1. What are some situations where “close” is good enough? What are some situations that “close” isn’t good enough? In Mark 12:34, Jesus told the scribe that he wasn’t far from the kingdom of God. In the passage that follows, Jesus teaches the next step that provides entrance into the kingdom.
2. Read Mark 12:35-37. The scribes taught that the Christ (Messiah) was to be the son of David (simply a man). How does Jesus use Scripture to expose their wrong understanding? How can the Christ be both David’s son and Lord? Why is understanding this correctly critical to gaining entrance into the kingdom of God?
3. Read Mark 12:38-40. What are the different issues Jesus raises against the scribes? Why are these worthy of “greater condemnation?” What might this kind of arrogance look like today in the church and in the world? What are some different ways the opinions of others shape the things you do or don’t do? Which of these are an expression of good social graces and which stem from pride? Why is understanding this critical in gaining entrance into the kingdom of God? (see Mark 8:34-35)
4. Read Mark 12:41-44. Jesus watched the people putting money into the offering box. What impact would it have on your giving if you knew Jesus was watching? What seems to be the significance of the widow putting in two coins? How can Jesus say she put in more if others contributed more money? What does this teach us about Jesus’ view of generosity? Are you giving in a way that is costly to you? Why is understanding this critical to gaining entrance into the kingdom of God?
5. From your sermon notes, what are the three things that make up “the next step” that move you from being close to the kingdom of God to gaining entrance into the kingdom of God? How are these related to repentance and faith? Does your life demonstrate that you are a citizen of the kingdom of God? What is the evidence of walking in repentance and faith?