

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Drawn from “Whose Son is the Christ?,” A Sermon on Mark 12:35-37

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

March 1, 2026 AM

1. One of the key words of this week’s sermon was allegiance, a word that most of us don’t use most of the time, except in the context of “The Pledge of Allegiance.” How would you define allegiance? In your opinion, is the common practice of “pledging allegiance to the American flag” in conflict with the Christian’s allegiance to Christ? Why or why not?
2. Look again at verse 35, where Jesus quotes from Psalm 110 and then poses a perplexing, exegetical question. In your own words, restate the theological riddle that Jesus presents to the scribes and answer it.
3. Look again at verse 34 (from last week) in light of this week’s sermon. What is the kingdom of God? What does Jesus mean when he says that this scribe is “not far from the kingdom?” What does this scribe need to enter the kingdom?
4. Think back to Mark 11:28, where the scribes (and others) questioned Jesus’ authority in matters related to the Temple. In what ways might this week’s sermon text provide an answer to their question?

5. You are talking with an “exvangelical.” He says, *“I definitely still admire Jesus. I guess I would even say that I still follow him. But I reject the Old Testament. At best, it’s historically unreliable and morally questionable.”* How might this week’s sermon text help you respond to this kind of sentiment?

6. You are talking with a “spiritual, but not religious” person. She says, *“My biggest problem with conservative, evangelical Christianity is how exclusive it is. If believing in Jesus works for you, fine. But don’t say that all other religions are wrong and that adherents of other faiths are going to hell. All religions are ultimately about the same things: love, justice, and peace. Plus Jesus was a really inclusive person, not a religious fundamentalist.”* How might today’s sermon and sermon text help you to respond to objection?

7. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti talked about the “interpretive guides to life” that people need, seek out, and have. In your own words, what was he getting at with this phrase? In your opinion, what are the most common places that people look to find this?

8. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti challenged us to ask ourselves, “who do you tend to treat as your interpretive guide for life and for this world?” Spend time reflecting together on this question, with special attention to what influences might be in competition with a Biblical worldview.