

Week of February 26-March 3rd

Today's devotional-writer is Mark Kiburz. Mark serves on our Board of Elders and is currently pursuing his ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God.

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

Scripture Reading: Read Mark Chapter 12

The first five books of the bible are called the Pentateuch by Jewish people. These books contain the law of Moses and include a number of provisions regarding relationships.

In Mark 12, we see the Jewish leadership living contrary to the social responsibilities outlined in Exodus 22:22-24. The Jewish leadership was not taking care of the people. Instead, they would walk through the community where they were greeted everywhere they went. They had important seats in the synagogues and held places of honor at banquets. These men were socially important people who continually sought personal gain over the fellow Israelites. Jesus tells us these men would devour widow's houses which mean they were so crooked they convinced widows to fund their exploits.

These leaders would have known Exodus 22:22-24, which tells us that God will not allow stealing from widows to go unpunished when widows cry out to God. These leaders willing and knowingly were going against God's law by taking advantage of widows. The punishment for such an act described in Exodus was to be killed with a sword leaving their families fatherless. That is a pretty serious penalty.

God gave His leadership standards for integrity to take care of God's people. Leadership must never have a self important or deceitful mindset; otherwise God will remove those that continually exploit God's people. God's desire is for church leadership to honor his word by action and word. Church leadership must not compromise the word of God for personal gain or social gain. Additionally, Christians must be a people not focused primarily on our earthly business, like the Jewish leaders. Rather, we must do our Father in Heaven's business.

Action Step: Reflect on your life to determine if your daily activities are about God's business or your own business.

Prayer Focus: Pray for church leadership to do God's business.

Take-a-way: Church leadership and believers alike that do not follow God's word will eventually suffer consequences.