

DISCUSSION GUIDE

You Can't Outsmart God The Gospel of Mark - Week 55

ICEBREAKER: What's something you regret losing, selling, or giving away? Explain why?

OVERVIEW: People try to outsmart God all the time. He has given us instructions on the best way to live, but we think that we can ignore Him and get away with it. In Sunday's sermon we looked at a story in the life of Christ when the religious leaders tried to outsmart Him, and they failed miserably. It is a reminder that you can't outsmart God. He is all-knowing, and therefore we must believe what He says, and obey His commands. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to live in light of God's omniscience.

1. **Read Mark 11:27-33.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus' authority to clean the temple. Does Jesus have the authority to clean up your life and dictate how you live? Explain.
3. Do you find the way Jesus responded to the Jewish leaders' question amazing, or do you find it puzzling? Explain.
4. Read Psalm 139:1-6, 14-16.
 - a. According to this passage, what does God know?
 - b. Does this impact your relationship with God in any way? Explain.
 - c. If God knows the future, does that mean that you do not have free will? Explain.

5. Read Matthew 10:28-31.
 - a. What does this passage command?
 - b. What does this passage teach about God's knowledge?
 - c. What does this passage teach about your value?
 - d. How does this passage make you feel?
6. Read Matthew 6:3-4.
 - a. What does this passage teach about God's knowledge?
 - b. How does this passage impact the way you live?
7. Do you ever live as if God is not watching? Explain.
8. Do you ever live as if you were smarter than God? Explain.

The Last Word: God knows everything. When we ignore Him and try to do things our own way, then we only hurt ourselves. But when we trust God and obey Him, then He leads us along the best pathway for our lives.