

## Questions for homegroups:

### *Following a King who is not far from his people*

Mark 12:28-44

In Mark 12:28-44 we read the end of the dialogue between Jesus and the religious authorities in the temple. He is asked what the most important commandment is, and gives the famous answer in verses 29-31. But we saw that knowing the Law isn't enough... others had given this summary before (see Luke 10:25-28 for example), but Jesus shows that even the teachers of the Law don't live accordingly in v38-40.

In v34 he says that they are "not far from the kingdom of God", and then in v35-37 shows that the Messiah will not be as they expected, hinting (from Psalm 110) that he will be a totally different kind of priest and king.

Mark then echoes the Psalm by showing Jesus sitting down in the temple as offerings are brought, and unlike the teachers of the Law in 38-40 we see that Jesus is pleased with the offerings of a humble widow, praising her as she gives her all.

Here are some questions that may be useful for your groups:

- Does the summary of the Law given in verse 29-31 seem more or less demanding to you than the rest of the Old Testament regulations?
  - How does Jesus fulfil these demands of the Law at the cross?
- How are we at risk of being like the teachers of the Law in v38-40? What does this look like in your context?
- For us, in this season of lockdown, what do verse 30 and 31 look like? What can we do practically to help ourselves or each other respond to the call to love like this?
- How is Jesus' response to the widow's offering an encouragement to you?