



Rockbridge Church Small Groups Lesson 12
Mark 12 – Real Jesus (Read Mark 12)

Questions:

1. What do you see in Mark 12 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. In what ways do you see Jesus hard at work, on a mission, with a purpose, loving people?
3. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter? (What about Jesus astonishes you, amazes you, challenges you or comforts you?)
4. In Mark 12, who encounters Jesus, and how do they respond to Him?
5. How are you responding to the Jesus you encountered in Mark 12?
6. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from Sunday's sermon?

Check out the additional notes on **Loving God** on the next page

Loving God

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:29-30)

To know God is to love Him, because the more we grasp — not merely in our minds but also in our experience — who He is and what He has done for us, the more our hearts will respond in love and gratitude. *"We love, because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

When we discover that the personal Author of time, space, matter, and energy has, for some incomprehensible reason, chosen to love us to the point of infinite sacrifice, we begin to embrace the unconditional security we longed for all of our lives. God's love for us is spontaneous, free, generous, uncaused, and undeserved; He did not set His love on us because we were lovable, beautiful, or clever — because in our sin we were unloveable, ugly, and foolish.

Romans 5 paints this 4-fold picture of us apart from God — we are helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). He loves us because He chooses to love us.

As we know and embrace our acceptance and security in Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us, we begin to realize that God is not the enemy of our joy, but the source of all joy and happiness. When we respond to this love, we become the people He always meant us to be, and that He calls us to be. By God's grace we grow in love for Him in our thoughts, in our emotions, and in our actions.

God's love is generous, and it is stubborn. It never lets go of you. Be convinced of God's generous and stubborn love for you. It's life-transforming! *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39).

We love because He first loved us. When, and only when, we are rooted and grounded in the unfathomable riches of God's love, are we then free to be generous (with all our heart, soul, mind and strength) in loving God and loving people. Let your love be as active as God's love, as sacrificial as God's love, and as unconditional as God's love, and as generous as God's love. May RbC be known for our love.