

# How Do We Please Jesus?

## I. Introduction

- A. Mark 11:15-19 (NLT) <sup>15</sup>When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup>and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. <sup>17</sup>He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." <sup>18</sup>When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching. <sup>19</sup>That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

## II. How Do We Please Jesus?

- A. We please Jesus when we go the extra mile for those who don't yet know Him.

1. "Is anyone else being influenced toward faith in Jesus because of my life?"

- B. We please Jesus when we make sure the poor are welcomed and cared for.

1. "Is the plight of the poor improved because of my life?"

2. Mark 12:41-44 (NLT) <sup>41</sup>Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. <sup>43</sup>Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. <sup>44</sup>For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

- C. We please Jesus when we make sure our "religious practices" are bringing us closer to Jesus.

1. "Am I closer to Jesus now than I was a year ago? **And**, are the pieces in place to sustain that upward spiritual trajectory in my life?"

## III. Conclusion