

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 12
PASSOVER

It is Passover week in Jerusalem. Jesus, the Lamb of God, who in less than a week will take away the sins of the world, continues to be scrutinized and opposed by the religious leaders. He is closely examined for blemishes and defects in His words and actions. Jesus's answer to every question presented to Him proved He was the perfect sacrifice sent from God to redeem sinful man. "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by the traditions from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19).

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength' the second equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." **Mark 12:29-31 NLT**

Read Mark 12 prayerfully. The religious leaders closely examine Jesus throughout this chapter. What did you learn as Jesus responded to these men?

PARABLE OF THE WICKED VINEDRESSERS

The stories Jesus used are called parables. A parable uses something familiar to help us understand something new. This method of teaching compels the listener to discover truth for themselves. The message gets through only to those who are willing to listen and learn.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sacrificial lambs had to be examined by the temple priests before they could be offered for sacrifice. The religious leaders' examination of Jesus – The Lamb of God is occurring in this last week of Jesus' earthly life.

1. Jesus continues to engage with the chief priests, scribes and elders (Mark 11:27) as they question His authority. As we begin Chapter 12, Jesus begins to speak to these men in a parable. Explain this parable in your own words. Then, answer the following questions based on verse 1.
 - Who is the man who planted a vineyard?
 - What is the vineyard? (Also see Isaiah 5:1-7)
 - How did the man care for the vineyard?
 - Who would be the vinedressers?
 - What did the man then do?
2. At vintage time, who did the man send to the vinedressers? What did he expect to receive? Were his expectations met (vv.2-3)?
3. Who do these servants represent in this parable? How were they treated? Who did the man finally send? Who does he represent? What did the man expect from the people (vv.4-6)?
4. What did the vinedressers say among themselves about the heir? What did they do to the son (vv.7-8)?
5. Jesus pronounces judgment on these religious leaders. What does He say will happen to them in the future (v.9)? (Also see Matt. 21:41; Luke 20:16.)

“We can see the fulfillment of that in AD 70 when Titus the Roman destroyed the city and took the Jews into captivity. We can look at the Colosseum in Rome. It was Jewish slave labor that built it.”

J. Vernon McGee

6. Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23. A Psalm these leaders would have been familiar with. Who is the stone the builders rejected? What has He become (vv.10-11)?

DIG DEEPER

The Stone was a well-known symbol for the Messiah. Look up the following verses and write what you find out:

- Exodus 17:6

- Daniel 2:34

- Zechariah 4:7

- Romans 9:32-33

- 1 Corinthians 10:4

- 1 Peter 2:6-8

7. As Jesus finished speaking of this parable, what did these religious leaders seek to do to Him? Why? What stopped them at that time (v.12)?

PERSONAL

Is Jesus the chief *Cornerstone* of your life? Is your life built on the *Rock*? Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Has He forgiven you of all your sins? If not, you can pray this prayer: “Lord Jesus, I admit to you I am a sinner. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. I ask you to come into my life with the forgiveness You offer and to fill me to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit. I want to build my life on You, Jesus, the Rock of my salvation. Amen.” If you prayed this prayer, share with someone.

QUESTION ON TAXES

The chief priests and scribes did not get anywhere with their interrogation of Jesus, so they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to catch Jesus in His words (vv.13-15).

- a. How did they first try to flatter Jesus?
 - b. What did they mean by “You are true and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men”? (See other translations for help.)
 - c. After their attempt at flattery, what did they ask Him?
8. What did Jesus know about them? What question did He ask them? What were their previous tests? (See Mark 8:11; 10:2.)
- a. What did He direct them to do?
 - b. When they produced the denarius, what did Jesus ask them (vv.15-16)?
9. What did Jesus answer to these men that cause them to marvel (vv.16-17)?
10. The Christian has a two-fold responsibility.
- a. Whose image is “stamped” on you? (See Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 44:24)
 - b. What is our responsibility to the government? (Romans 13:1-7)

<p>DID YOU KNOW? The specific taxes the Pharisees and Herodians had in mind was the Roman poll tax imposed when Judea became a Roman province in AD 6. This tax represented Jewish subjugation to Rome.</p>
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- c. What is our responsibility to God? (See Exodus 34:14; Psalm 29:2, Philippians 2:10-11.)

- d. Which kingdom takes precedence over every other kingdom? (See Acts 5:29, Rev. 11:15.)

PERSONAL

“The word translated *render* in Mark 12:17 means to pay a debt, to pay back. Jesus looked at taxes as the citizens’ debt to the government in return for services performed” (Warren Wiersbe). How do we render to God the things that are God’s? (See Romans 12:1-2.)

QUESTION OF THE RESURRECTION

11. Now who came to Jesus? What did they believe about the resurrection? How did these people use Moses to question Jesus (vv.18-22)? (Also see Deuteronomy 25:5.) What was their final question for Jesus (v.23)?

12. What two things did Jesus say the Sadducees misinterpreted? What did He want them to see about the believers regarding marriage and the resurrected body (vv.24-25)? (See Luke 20:34-36 and Paul’s words on this in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.)

13. The Sadducees only believed in the first five books of Moses and did not know the Scriptures or understand the Power of God. Jesus wanted them to understand God spoke to Moses about the power of the resurrection. What did God say when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush? Who is God the God of (vv.26-27)?

PERSONAL

How are you comforted by the words of Jesus in John 11:25? Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever believes in Me shall never die.” Do you have confidence in the promise of the resurrection?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sadducees presented a scenario designed to make the doctrine of resurrection look absurd. Their question assumed that the future life will be like the temporal life.

QUESTION ON THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

14. These leaders were not finished examining Jesus. Who did they send to Him next? What had he perceived about Jesus? What was his question for Jesus (v.28)?

15. What additional information does Matthew give us about this encounter? What was this man’s motive (Matt. 22:34-35)?

“The scribes had determined that Jews were obligated to obey 613 precepts in the law, 365 negative and 248 positive. One of their favorite exercises was discussing which of these divine commandments was the greatest.” *Warren Wiersbe*

16. How does Jesus answer his question (vv.29-31)?

17. Jesus took them back to the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18). What one word do these verses emphasize concerning our relationship with God and people?

a. How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 relate?

b. And Romans 13:8-10?

18. When this man heard Jesus's answer to his question, how did he respond? What did Jesus see about this man? What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God" (vv.33-34)?

PERSONAL

What would Jesus say about you? How far are you from the kingdom of God? Do you love Jesus with all your heart, soul and mind? Does this love for Jesus cause you to love His people? (Please see 1 John 2:5-6.)

Jesus quoted the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), a Scripture passage pious Jews recited every morning and evening. The words affirmed monotheistic orthodoxy (the Lord is one); identified the primary affection with which people were to relate to God (love); and emphasized the necessity to do so with one's total being: heart (affections), soul (spirit), mind (intelligence), and strength (will).

JESUS QUESTIONS THE LEADERS

19. The leaders were silenced. *No more questions.* Now Jesus turned the tables and began to ask them a question. What did He ask them as He taught in the Temple (v.35)? (Also see Matt. 22:42-43; Luke 20:41.)

20. Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1; David's son was also David's Lord (v.37). What was Jesus teaching them about Himself with this question? (See Mark 1:1, Mark 8:29, Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38.) Who gladly heard Jesus?

Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1 to show that David considered the Messiah to be his Lord, not just his descendant. The religious leaders did not understand that the Messiah would be far more than a human descendant of David; He would be God Himself in human form.

JESUS CONDEMNS THE PHARISEES

21. What did Jesus expose about the scribes? What did these pious leaders expect to receive from people? What did Jesus say they would receive?

THE WIDOW'S TWO MITES

22. Jesus sat observing the people; what did He see (vv.41-42)? How did He commend the poor widow to the disciples (vv.43-44)?

DID YOU KNOW?

The temple treasury was in the Court of the Women, so named because that was as close as women could come to the sanctuary.

DWELL ON THIS

The treasury consisted of thirteen trumpet-shaped chests into which worshipers deposited their freewill offerings. Apparently, the trumpet shape of the collection boxes amplified the sound of coins when they were dropped in, making it obvious when rich people deposited much. “How wonderful the common people heard Jesus gladly. Does this describe you?” (Warren Wiersbe).

