

# Study of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 12 (Part 1)

### Background

This chapter continues recording the events of Tuesday of Holy Week. This day was full of test and traps by the leaders of various religious groups, who all wanted to see the demise of Jesus. We will see the wisdom of Jesus as He handles these questions and points His attackers to the Word of God where both their sin and their Savior is revealed.

In the previous section (Mark 11:27-33) the Jewish leaders came to Jesus and challenged His authority to run the money changers out of the temple (see Mark 11:15-17). Jesus responded with a question of His own, which the leaders refused to answer. The parable that Jesus tells in this chapter is in response to that challenge. It was meant to be a call to repentance for those who hated Jesus and wanted to destroy Him.

1. Read Mark 12:1-12. Jesus tells a parable of the wicked tenants. This was a story that was meant especially for the Jewish leaders but can be seen and understood by us as well. Tell what the parts of the parable represent. (Take a look at the Bible Passage in the third column if you need help.)

<u>Parable</u>	<u>Represented</u>	<u>Bible Passage</u>
1) Vineyard owner	_____	Isaiah 5:1-7
2) Vineyard growers	_____	Mark 12:12
3) Owner's servants	_____	Matthew 23:34-36
4) Owner's son	_____	Romans 5:10

2. At the end of this parable, Jesus points His listeners to God's Word recorded in Psalm 118:22-23. This was a Messianic passage in the Old Testament which pointed to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's salvation. Sadly, not all would receive the salvation He came to bring. What was Jesus purpose in using this passage?

---

---

---

3. Using the cross references in your Bible, find several New Testament references that show that the words of Psalm 118:22-23 were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

---

---

4. Read Mark 12:13-17. The attacks against Jesus continue.... This time a group of religious (Pharisees) and government (Herodian) representatives were sent to trick Jesus. It was an effort to either turn the people against Jesus (they despised the Roman taxes) or turn the government against Him (if he condemned the tax). Instead Jesus points out that we are subject to both God and our government, not just one or the other.

This is an important topic in our own county as well. To what extent should a Christian support a government that is becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity and Christian values? We must remember that even the most wicked governments are subject to God and will give an account for their actions on the last day. What can we learn about this matter from the following passages?

Romans 13:1-7 - \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:13-17 - \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 3:1-2 - \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:29 - \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Mark 12:18-27. Another group of religious leaders take a shot at Jesus. This time it is the Sadducees. This religious group was very different from many of the other of that day. They rejected the afterlife, eternal judgment, the existence of angels, and all of the Old Testament with the exception of the first five books of Moses. Their question was meant to "disprove" the resurrection based on a marriage law from the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. Notice that Jesus refutes their argument from the book of Exodus, another book of Moses which the Sadducees would have considered authoritative.

How does that passage (Exodus 3:6) prove the resurrection?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. There are many other passages in both the Old and New Testaments that demonstrate the truth of the resurrection from the dead. Search through your Bible and come up with a list of 8 passages (4 - OT, and 4 - NT) that teach the resurrection from the dead.

**Old Testament**

**New Testament**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_