

# Study of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 12 (Part 2)

### Background

We are still considering the events of Tuesday of Holy Week, a day of tests as the leaders of various religious groups tried to trick Jesus into making a foolish statement that would turn the people against Him or give them an excuse to accuse Jesus before the Roman authorities. In each situation Jesus responds, not just with wisdom, but with the infallible Word of God which is Truth (John 17:17). As we consider Jesus' use of the Old Testament in response to these tests by the Jewish leaders, we should recognize the importance of God's Word in the discussions we have with people in our lives. Man's wisdom is no substitute for the all powerful Word of God!

1. Read Mark 12:28-34. In the previous section the Sadducees tried to test Jesus, and when they fail, another steps forward to take a shot. Compare these verses with Matthew's account in Matthew 22:34-40. Compare the similarities and seeming differences:

#### Similarities

#### Seeming Differences

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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. How can we see the harmony in these two parallel sections from Matthew and Mark? (*If you don't already own a copy, consider buying William Arndt's "Bible Difficulties and Seeming Contradictions." It is a very helpful book for questions such as these in both the Old and New Testaments.*)

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3. Throughout history people have discussed and even debated relative greatness of certain laws (think of mortal vs. venial sins in Catholicism etc.). Even Jesus recognized that some commandments were "greater" than others (see Matthew 5:19). Instead of categorizing or listing sins, Jesus states the summary of the law. How was this an effective response?

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4. Read Mark 12:35-37. As the tests come to a conclusion, Jesus uses the opportunity to again point the people to His person and work as He questions them. Notice that Jesus again quotes from the Old Testament. What Old Testament Bible passage does Jesus refer to?

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Again, compare Matthew's account in Matthew 22:41-46. How does Matthew record the question of Jesus in his account?

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There are two answers to the question Jesus asks. The Pharisees give one answer, but Jesus points out that this is not the correct one. What is the answer to the questions which Jesus is trying to get His listeners to see? (Compare Isaiah 9:6; Mark 1:1.)

5. What Biblical doctrine does Jesus affirm and teach in His words in v.36? Why is this important to note?

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6. Read Mark 12:38-40. What does Jesus warn against in these verses? We do well to take Jesus' warning to heart as well. How can we apply Jesus words to our own lives?

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7. Read Mark 12:41-44. When the attacks against Jesus stopped and He concluded His teaching, He must have remained in the temple complex a bit longer. It was here that Jesus witnessed an event that needed to be pointed out to His disciples. This event not only served as a teaching point for the apostles, but also serves as a lesson for Jesus' disciples still today. What do we learn from these verses which can be applied to our Christian stewardship in our own lives? (Compare Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12)

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