

# Mark Chapter 11:27-12:44

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# Chapter 11-12

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Jesus was walking through the Temple area, and the leading religious leaders asked Him what authority allowed Him to do all the things He was doing.

Jesus said He would tell them if they could answer one question: Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?

They talked among themselves and realized that if they say it was from heaven then why didn't they believe John—and on the other hand they could not say that it was merely human.

Saying that would put the people in an uproar—so they responded that they did not know—and Jesus responded telling them that He would not tell them how He was able to do those things.

**Commentary:** The pride of the religious leaders mixed with their fear made them unwilling to correctly answer the question from Jesus. Instead of asking Jesus about His authority, they should have praised God for all the good that He was doing. Never allow pride or the unwillingness to admit that you are wrong cause you to miss all of the wonderful things God is doing through Jesus.

## Parable Of The Evil Tenant Farmers 12:1-12

- Jesus told a story about a man who planted a vineyard, leased the vineyard to tenant farmers, and moved to another country.
- When it was time to collect the harvest, the tenant farmers kept killing all of the people that were sent by the owner—until he sent his son--and they killed him too.
- Jesus then told them that the father will come to kill the farmers and lease the vineyard to someone else.
- Jesus then told them that the stone that the builders rejected had become the cornerstone—and the leaders became upset because they knew Jesus was talking about them.
- Jesus then told them that the stone that was rejected had become the cornerstone—and it was the Lord's doing!
- The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid of the crowd so they did nothing.
- **Commentary:** No matter how many people rejected Jesus—He continued to love them all—and God's plan prevailed.

## Taxes For Caesar 12:13-17

- The religious leaders tried to trap Jesus by asking Him is it right to pay taxes to Caesar.
- Jesus saw that they were trying to trap Him, and asked them whose picture was on the Roman coin.
- They replied that it was Caesar's picture—and Jesus told them then give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.
- Commentary: Jesus reminds us that it is necessary to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar—and to give to God what belongs to God. However, we are also reminded that we often short change God before we short change Caesar. Never allow God to be overshadowed by anything—giving to God must be of the utmost of importance to us.

- The religious leaders again try to trick Jesus with a question about marriage.
- First, they say that there is no resurrection, then they ask Jesus about a woman that has seven husbands—and they wonder which one she will be married to in the resurrection.
- Jesus told them that they do not know the Scriptures—because the marriages will not matter in heaven—because they will be like angels.
- Then Jesus tells them that the dead will be raised—because God is the God of the living...not the dead.
- **Commentary:** Sometimes people will confuse the carnal with the spiritual—and we must then determine what God says—and not what people say.
- What does Jesus' interpretation of heaven say to you?

# The Most Important Commandment 12:28-34

One of the teachers of religious law asked Jesus what the most important commandment was—and Jesus said that the Lord our God is the one and only LORD...and you must love the LORD God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Jesus also said that the second is equally important—you must love your neighbor as yourself.

The religious leader responded that Jesus was speaking the truth—and that loving God and our neighbor is more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.

Jesus realized how much the man understood and told him that he was not far from the Kingdom of God—and no one dared ask Jesus another question.

**Commentary:** Love for God and love for our neighbor are the two most important things we can work on. Even though we know this to be true...why do some people find it so difficult to love?

## Jesus' Teaching 12:35-40

- Jesus asked why teachers of religious law claim He is the Son of David?
- Since David called the Messiah his lord—how can the Messiah be his Son?
- Then Jesus told them to be aware of some teachers of religious law—because they like to parade around in flowing robes—and love prominent seats at the head table.
- Yet, they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and pretend to be pious in public—they will be severely punished for this.
- Commentary: Jesus reminds us the He is a descendant of David—but the Son of God. Thus, while He is related to David—He is the Son of God.
- We must all be aware not just of religious leaders, but even of ourselves if we become too concerned with positions of prominence and forget that no matter where we sit, we are still to serve God.



## The Widow's Offering 12:41-44

- Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as crowds gave their money.
- Many rich people put in large amounts—and then a poor widow came in and put in two small coins.
- Jesus called His disciples and told them that this poor widow has given more than all the others because they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she has given everything that she had.
- Commentary: When it comes to our giving, everyone is mandated by God to give according to what they have.
- However, there are those that will be willing to give their last—trusting God to take care of them.
- Why do you think that so many people are unwilling not only to give their part—but truly afraid of giving it all?