

Mark: The Storyteller's Gospel (Mark 12)

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Series objective

This series is designed to help us take a personal look at Jesus in a way that causes us look in the mirror. Most of us would admit that we would live very different lives if we lived every moment as if we were completely devoted to Christ, what He did for us, and the calling He has for our lives.

Overview of Chapter 12

Verse 1-12	The Parable of the Tenants
Verse 13-17	Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar
Verse 18-27	Marriage at the Resurrection
Verse 28-34	The Great Commandment
Verse 35-37	Whose Son Is the Messiah?
Verse 38-40	Warning Against the Teachers of the Law
Verse 41-44	The Widow's Offering

1. Verses 1 through 12 tell a powerful story that demonstrates the cruelty, brutality, and greed of man.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus chose to tell this story?
 - b. How do you think the Jewish leaders knew Jesus was speaking of them?
 - c. Do we have a part in this story?
2. I would venture to say few of us, if any, like paying taxes. Why is it important for us as Christians to pay taxes? In developing your answer, think in terms of both our role as citizens of earth *and* Heaven.
3. The *Marriage at the Resurrection* passage we read in verses 18 through 27 was designed by the Sadducees to try and "trip up" Jesus. What two questions did Jesus address in his response?
4. I would imagine most followers of Jesus could answer the question, *what is the Greatest Commandment?* Read verses 28 through 34 and answer the following:
 - a. Jesus was asked one question, but gave two answers. Why?
 - b. Why do you think after this point the Jewish leaders decided to no longer ask Him any questions?
 - c. What does it mean to you personally to *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength* (Mark 12:30)?
5. In verses 38 through 40 Jesus warns about the teaching of the Pharisees. Are there any warnings for us in this passage?
6. One of the most widely recognized stories in the New Testament is that of the Widow's Offering, often referred to as the Widows' Mite. What was so impressive about her level of commitment?

Our next study (next Wednesday, September 4)

Mark 13 provides a text involving prophecy, or future events. Why do you think God chose to include prophetic passages in the Bible?