

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday Morning Bible Study

Mark – Chapter Twelve

As we begin this chapter, please remember that the events of this chapter took place on Monday of Holy Week. These events also immediately follow Jesus' challenging question, "Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" The religious leaders did not answer because they were more concerned about their image before the people than they were about doing what was right. So, "Jesus began to speak to them in parables."

1. Who was the "them" He was speaking to?

2. Review Question: What is a parable?

3. In this parable, who or what is represented by:

- A) The Man who planted – God. God is the creator and the Redeemer of the world.
- B) The Vineyard – The Vineyard represents Israel or God's people.
- C) Tenants – The religious leaders.
- D) The Servants who were sent – The prophets
- E) The Son – Jesus

4. What additional action did the man take when he planted the vineyard? Why?

Finally, He leased the land to tenants who could take what He had done and complete the harvest. Such tenants paid rent, tended the field and gave the owner a percentage of the profit.

Why did He do all this? He wanted a Harvest! He did all the groundwork and made it easy for the tenants.

5. What is the symbolism of, “He went into another country?”

6. Why did the tenants beat and kill the landlord’s servants and son?

7. How were the religious leaders, of Jesus’ time, like the tenants?

8. How did Jesus say the Owner would react to the actions of the tenants? What are the implications of this to this day?

9. What Scripture does Jesus quote in verses 10-11?

10. Who or What are the:

11. Who made the Cornerstone the Cornerstone?

12. Why is this marvelous in our eyes?

13. What did the religious perceive? What did they do?

14. In chapter #4, we saw who the Pharisees were. Who were the Herodians?

15. What was the purpose of the Pharisees and Herodians coming to Jesus?

16. What characteristics did the Pharisees and Herodians ascribe to Jesus? (clue: there are five characteristics) Why?

17. What was their question? What was their two-sided reason for asking this question?

18. What did Jesus know about the Pharisees and Herodians?

19. What was a denarius?

20. Why did Jesus ask for a denarius?

21. What belongs to Caesar? To God?

22. The Chief Priests, Scribes and Elders were certainly intent on trapping Jesus. They had a Plan B! Who immediately challenged Jesus following the failure of the Pharisees and Herodians? What do we know about them? (See lesson #4)

23. How did they begin their question? Why?

24. They asked a question, “Whose wife will she be?” Why? (John 11:25)

25. Jesus read right through the question and addressed the Sadducees lack of belief in the resurrection. What did He say about them? Why?

26. How did Jesus show that there is life after death?

27. Okay – I know you really want to know what is meant by Jesus’ words concerning angels and being married in heaven. The first thing I want you to note is that the Sadducees did not believe in angels. Jesus speaks of them as being real and follows it with “You are quite wrong.” As for marriage, please read Genesis 2:18-24. What did God call the helper who was fit for man?

Please note, if you put “woman” or “Eve,” you are quite wrong! Now answer this question: “How long did God intend for Adam and Eve to be man and wife?”

Read Luke 20:34-36. What does this imply?

28. Verse 28 is an interesting verse. Notice, a scribe “came up and heard them disputing with one another.” Who is meant by “them?” What were they disputing? (The second half of this question is a challenge. Hint: Think about the beliefs of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Put this into the context of what Jesus previously had said.) What was the result of this disputing?

29. The scribe asked a fundamental question, “Which Commandment is the most important of all?” How did Jesus begin His answer? Where did He get this from? What is the significance of this?

30. What was the second part of Jesus’ answer? Where did He get this from?

36. Does this happen today? If so, How?

37. What did Jesus add to the Shema as He answered the scribes' question concerning the most important commandment? Why?

38. How did the scribe respond to Jesus' answer? Thinking back to the answer of the last question, what did the scribe understand? How did this play into Jesus' statement, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

39. Why would no one dare ask Him anymore questions?

40. The Pharisees worshipped their laws and practices, the Sadducees didn't believe in the Resurrection, the Prophets or the existence of angels. What was wrong with the beliefs of the scribes? (vs. 35)

41. What is meant by the phrase, “David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared?” (2nd Timothy 3:16; 2nd Peter 1:21) What important Christian doctrine does this support?

42. What scripture did Jesus quote in verse 36?

43. What is meant by:

The Lord – _____

My Lord – _____

Sit at My right hand – _____

Put Your enemies under Your feet – _____

44. What is Jesus’ point in quoting this passage?

45. What was wrong with the practice of the scribes? (Luke 17:10)

46. How could scribes devour widow’s houses?

47. Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money in the offering box. What is wrong with this picture?
(Matthew 6:3-18)

48. Why did Jesus commend the gift of the poor widow? (There are two answers! One is stated and obvious. The other requires you to put yourself in her place – out in public at one of the 13 horn-shaped, metal receptacles).

The Jewish Temple

Solomon built the first temple, which had been designed by his father King David. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the first temple. When the Jews returned to the Promised Land in 538 B.C. the task of rebuilding the temple was undertaken. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the temple was rebuilt and completed in 515 B.C. However, over the centuries, it fell into disrepair. King Herod the Great began a complete restoration and expansion of the temple around 20 B.C. His goal was to return the temple to the splendor and majesty of Solomon's time. This was not done out of devotion to God. Rather, he did this for his only glory and to gain the support of the Jewish people. This was the temple that Jesus went to. While the majority of the work was completed in the first three years of construction, the temple restoration and expansion wasn't completed until 64 A.D. When Jesus observed the widow putting her two small copper coins in the treasury, He was sitting in the women's court.

An artist's rendition of how Herod's Temple would have appeared:

