

## The Day Of Questions (Mark 12)

In first century Israel a man's words could get him into a whole lot of trouble! Freedom of speech was not the norm. Today, you and I may say almost anything we please and get away with it – we may ridicule the mayor, criticize the government, and even speak out against the State President. But it wasn't that way in first century Israel. To speak out against the Roman authorities, or to challenge any doctrine of Judaism, could land you in a lot of hot water and even cost you your life. Knowing this, the chief priests, the Pharisees, and the elders are determined to trap Jesus in His words. If they can trick Him into saying the wrong thing it will be easy to condemn Him to death. *Will they succeed?* Read Mark 12 and find out how Jesus deals with these wicked leaders. This is the day of questions!

### POINTS TO PONDER:

#### A. JESUS ADDRESSED THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD TO ISRAEL'S RELIGIOUS LEADERS (V1-12)

- This parable is based on Isaiah 5, where Israel is God's vineyard. The parable is historic and deals with the shameful way Israel treated God's prophets, eventually killing His only Son.

#### B. THE HERODIANS WANTED TO TRAP JESUS ON THE ISSUE OF PAYING TAXES (V13-17)

- *"It is lawful to pay taxes?"* This was a trap. If Jesus answered YES, the Jews would have despised Him. But if He answered NO, He would have been guilty of rebellion against the Romans.

#### C. THE SADDUCEES WANTED TO EXPOSE A FLAW IN JESUS' TEACHING (V18-27)

- The Sadducees were an influential Jewish sect. They did not believe in life after death.
- Many religions today teach conflicting views of what happens after death. (E.g. Annihilation, Soul sleep, Reincarnation, etc). The Bible teaches the bodily resurrection of the dead.

#### D. THE PHARISEES WANTED TO ASK JESUS A QUESTION HE COULDN'T ANSWER (V28-34)

- *"Love the Lord your God..."* The Bible contains many great promises to those who love God. Take a look at the following scriptures: Rom 8:28, 1Cor. 2:9, 1Cor. 8:3.

#### E. JESUS QUESTIONS THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND COMMENDS A POOR WIDOW (V35-44)

- Christ is both the Son of David (a descendant of David), and David's Lord ("The Lord said to my Lord..."). Of course, this would be impossible if Jesus Christ was not fully God and fully Man as scripture teaches.

### CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

When Jesus watched the Jews putting their money into the treasury, He did not commend the rich with their large gifts, but the tiny offering of a poor widow. *Why?* Because she gave all that she owned, and she offered it sacrificially. How challenging! While the Old Testament specifically speaks of giving our tenth to God, the New Testament encourages us to give sacrificially, and with a grateful heart. This will often mean giving God far more than one-tenth! Are you a sacrificial giver?