### Mark

## Chapter 12

1Well after that, Jesus used this parable to teach them.  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘There was once a man who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a vat for a wine press, built a lookout tower [to protect it], and then he rented it out to some tenant farmers before he traveled abroad.  
  
 2‘Then, when the [harvest] season arrived, he sent a slave to the farmers to get some of the vineyard’s fruit.  
  
 3‘However, they grabbed [the slave], beat him up, and sent him away with nothing.  
  
 4‘So then he sent another slave to them. This one they hit on the head and treated dishonorably.  
  
 5‘Then he sent another, whom they killed… And [he sent] many others, some of whom they flayed with whips and others whom they murdered!  
  
 6‘Well, [the master] had one last [person whom he could send]: a dearly-loved son! So he sent his son to them, saying:  
  
 ‘Surely they’ll respect him!’  
  
 7‘But those farmers said to each other:  
  
 ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him, and then his [land] will be ours!’  
  
 8‘So they grabbed him and killed him, then they threw [his body] outside of the vineyard.  
  
 9‘Now, what do you think the owner of the vineyard will do? Surely he would go there and destroy those tenant farmers, and then entrust the vineyard to others, wouldn’t he?  
  
 10‘Have you ever read the scripture that says:  
  
 ‘The stone that the builders rejected  
 Has become the foundation cornerstone…  
 11It’s by Jehovah that this came to pass,  
 And it’s a wonderful thing in our eyes.?’  
 [Psalm 118:22]  
  
12Well [when he said] this, they started to realize that he was applying the parable to them. So after that, they started looking for ways to arrest him. However, because they were afraid of the crowds, they just released him and left.  
  
  
  
13Thereafter, they sent some of the Pharisees and some of the followers of Herod to him to try to get [Jesus] to say something [that they could use against him].  
  
14So these people came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Teacher, we know that you tell the truth and that you aren’t impressed by anyone, for you don’t look at what men are on the outside, but you truly teach the ways of God.  
  
 ‘So tell us: Does the Law require us to pay the head tax to Caesar or not… 15Should we pay, or shouldn’t we pay?’  
  
But noting their hypocrisy, he said:  
  
 ‘Why are you testing me? Bring me a silver coin.’  
  
16So they brought him [a coin].  
  
Then he asked:  
  
 ‘Whose image and inscription is on this?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Caesar’s.’  
  
17Then Jesus said:  
  
 ‘Pay Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God.’  
  
And that left them bewildered.  
  
  
  
18Now, the SadDucees (who say there’s no such thing as a resurrection) then came to [Jesus] and said:  
  
 19‘Teacher, Moses wrote that a brother of any man who dies and leaves his woman without a child should take his woman and sire offspring for him.  
  
 20‘So, let’s say that there were seven brothers. The first one took a woman [as his wife], but he died without offspring. 21Then the second took her, but he also died without offspring, as did the third, and so on… 22Therefore, none of the seven left her with any offspring.  
  
 ‘And finally, she also died.  
  
 23‘So... Whose wife will she be in the resurrection, since all seven of them had her as theirs?’  
  
24Then Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘This is why you’re so misled, because you don’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God!  
  
 25‘When the dead are resurrected, they won’t marry or be married, because they’ll be like [God’s] messengers in the heavens.  
  
 26‘And when it comes to the dead that will be raised – haven’t you read in the book about Moses (in the story about the thorn bush) that God said to him:  
  
 ‘I am the God of AbraHam, the God of IsaAc, and the God of Jacob?’  
  
 27‘Notice that He isn’t the God of the dead, but of the living!  
  
 ‘Yes, you’re very misled!’  
  
28Well, one of the scribes that had just arrived and overheard the things that were being said knew that [Jesus] had given a good answer.  
  
So he asked:  
  
 ‘Then, which is the primary Commandment?’  
  
29And Jesus answered:  
  
 ‘The primary one is this:  
  
 ‘Hear, O IsraEl: Jehovah your God is your only Lord.  
  
 30‘So, you must love your God Jehovah with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.’ [Deuteronomy 6:4]  
  
 31‘The second one is this:  
  
 ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ [Leviticus 19:18]  
  
 ‘No Commandments are greater than these.’  
  
32Then the scribe said:  
  
 ‘That’s good… You’re speaking the truth, teacher, when you say that He is One and that there’s no other, 33and that loving Him with our whole heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves is worth much more than all of our whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’  
  
34And when Jesus recognized that [the scribe] had responded intelligently, he said to him:  
  
 ‘You aren’t far from the Kingdom of God.’  
  
Well, from then on, no one else had enough courage to ask him any more questions.  
  
35So in reply to a question that had been raised while Jesus was teaching in the Temple, Jesus went on to ask [the Scribes] this:  
  
 ‘Why do you say that the Anointed One is to be a son of David? 36For through the Holy Breath [of God], David said:  
  
 ‘Jehovah said to my Lord;  
 Sit here at my right hand  
 ‘Til I put your enemies under your feet.’  
  
 37‘So if David called him Lord; how could he be his son?’  
  
[Well, all the while], the huge crowd was listening to him with a lot of pleasure. 38So as he was teaching, he gave them this warning:  
  
 ‘Watch out for the Scribes who like to walk around in robes, who wish to be greeted in the markets, 39and who want the front seats in the synagogues and the first positions at the meals. 40For despite the fact that they devour the homes of widows, they like to put on great pretenses and deliver very long prayers.  
  
 ‘So, this is why they’re going to receive a heavier judgment.’  
  
  
41Then, as he was sitting across from the [Temple] Treasury, he noticed the crowd dropping money into the box, and he could see that the rich people were dropping in many coins.  
  
42But then he also noticed a poor widow that went up and dropped in just two small copper coins (they weren’t worth very much).  
  
43So, [Jesus] called his disciples over and said to them:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: this poor widow put in more than all the rest that were dropping their money into the Treasury chest, 44because they’re throwing in something of which they have plenty.  
  
 ‘However, this needy woman dropped in everything that she had… Her whole [means of] living!’