

Who Do You Say That I Am | Jesus is Lord of this life and the life to come

Mark 12:13–27

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I. He is Lord of this life (12:13-17)

13 And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. 14 And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" 15 But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." 16 And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." 17 Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

▪ How are we to honor God in this life?

(1) Pay your taxes – "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"

Rom. 13:7

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

- We are command by God's word to submit to the God ordained authority of government.

Titus 3:1–2

3 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

As a devoted follower of King Jesus, my Lord, my Savior, and my sovereign God, I pledge the following to the governing authorities, which are ordained by God:

1. I will be a good citizen living in subjection to governmental authority, even a pagan one (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17). I will responsibly engage the political process. If allowed, I will vote, seeking to bring my Christian convictions into the public arena.
2. I will live intentionally like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, and Jesus Himself on earth. My ultimate allegiance is to Christ and His kingdom.
3. I will obey the state but worship only God. And I will thank God for all the good He does through the government, praying always for all who are in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-5).
4. I will acknowledge that all governmental authority is established by and comes from God (Mk. 12:17; Rom. 13:1, 4, 6).
5. I will acknowledge that all government serves in some measure the purposes of promoting good and punishing evil (Rom. 13:3-4).
6. I will pay all taxes levied upon me by my government, recognizing its right to do so (Mk. 12:17; Rom. 13:6-7).
7. I will engage in "civil disobedience" only when my government prohibits me from doing what the Bible commands, or when it commands me to do what the Bible prohibits.

Daniel Akin – *Christ-centered exposition: Exalting Jesus in Mark*, p. 278

(2) Worship your God – "Render . . . to God the things that are God's"

" 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's;' that is, give to Caesar his image stamped upon his coin, and give to God his own image stamped upon you; render to Caesar the coin which is his due, you may render your own self to God.

▪ **Are you giving God all that is rightfully His?**

II. He is Lord of the life to come (12:18-27)

18 And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, 19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. 21 And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. 22 And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”

24 Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

- “**Sadducees**” – A small sect of the priestly families, the Sadducees were wealthy aristocrats with significant political and temple influence. They believed there was no resurrection, angels, or spirits (Acts 23:6-8).

Josephus (Antiquities, 18:1, 4) “The doctrine of the Sadducees is this: souls die with bodies.”

- Two grievous errors (v. 24):
 - (1) They did not know the scriptures.
 - (2) They did not know the power of God.
- Jesus deals with the hostile questioners by going on the attack. His response fits a chiastic pattern:
 - a. You are in error [*planao*].
 - b. You do not know the Scriptures.
 - c. You do not know the power of God.
 - c.’ [The power of God] raises the dead and they become like angels.
 - b.’ [Scripture is cited] In the bush passage, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is God of the living.
 - a.’ You are badly mistaken [*planao*].

Garland, D. E. - *Mark*, p. 470

▪ **How are we to trust God for the life to come?**

(1) Know His Power (v. 25)

25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” —

- Our faith in the resurrection is based on our faith in the power of God and that alone.

(2) Know His Word (vv. 26-27)

26 And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

- Jesus confirms the full inspiration and authority of the O.T. Scriptures, even to the tense of a verb.
- To deny the resurrection is to deny God and his true character.

- **Would you want to go to heaven if Christ was not there?**

Many Christians who believe in the resurrection also view it from a defective anthropocentric point of view. They visualize the afterlife as a great reunion of family and friends—a continuation of life on earth without all the problems that hamper our happiness. Just analyze gospel songs that describe what heaven is like to see the truth of this statement. It is easy to understand why this is so. The family is the place where most experience unconditional love. The problem is that the idea of meeting God takes a backseat. That may be attributable to the failure to have met God while alive on earth. The major danger in trying to portray the resurrection life is that our image more often than not matches our wishes for an earthly utopia, and human beings wind up as the center of this life rather than God.

Garland, D. E. - *Mark*, p. 473