

Mark 12:1-40 “The Inspection of the Servant”

Please stand and open your bibles to Exodus 12:1-5

We are on Day 3 of the last day of Jesus’s earthly ministry. We started last time with the religious leaders questioning His authority. This was a trap to try to find a “Fault” in Him. It is very interesting as this would be the time they would be inspecting the Lambs for the Passover. But as we will see today, who is inspecting who? Chapter 12 picks right up from where we left off as He is still talking to those leaders that had come to Him...

An Obvious Parable

Mark 12:1-12

This was a pattern that Israel has had throughout its entire history!

Jeremiah 7:25-26

Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

Stephen brought it up...

Acts 7:51-52

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers

And before He leaves them in the Temple this day, Jesus will say this...

Matthew 23:35-36

that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Of course He shares the part of the Messianic Psalm, 118 that talks about the stone that would be rejected. This parable was not to judge them but to try to wake them up. God is Longsuffering to them. He is patient and wants people to repent. His voice is loud and clear but are we listening?

Hebrews 3:7-8 and Psalm 95:7-8

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me...”

Don't turn away from His voice today!

The Next Trap...

Mark 12:13-17

This was a well thought out trap. The two groups that came together were two that did not like each other. The Pharisees hated paying taxes and wanted nothing to do with the government. The Herodians on the other hand were Jews that integrated with the Government and thought that it was fair to pay. They both knew that their authorities were threatened by Jesus so to look past their differences they came up with this plan. However He answers He will be in trouble with one of the two. Pretty smart, huh? Not only did His answer silence them both but it tells us something, we are to render that which is due. God will always get His and so will those that we live under. Until God's Kingdom comes, we are part of this one and must be the best citizens we can be. This is exactly what Paul had in mind when He wrote this...

Romans 13:1 & 6-7

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God... For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

This scripture has been misread and abused by those that think the church is supposed to submit to the government for everything. This is not true. Jesus said to render to God the things that are God's. He separated the two. We render to the government the things that are theirs and if it gets in the way of what we are rendering to God, we still render to God. No and, ifs or buts!

But one more thing before we move on. This statement from Jesus requires us to do just that, render unto Caesar. This would include for us voting. That does not get in the way of our rendering unto God and a matter of fact can help the cause. You and I are commanded by Jesus Himself to render. To not do so would be to disobey the real meaning of His and Paul's words.

Now to the next group...

Mark 12:18-27

Now the first thing that comes to my mind is what were these brothers thinking? I mean by the fourth one you would start ask questions, right? We know in the law the brother could have just taken off his shoe and said uh, no thanks! But this is supposed to sound foolish. They are trying to trip Him up with the law. But I love how He answers them by telling them they are mistaken. The word is actually "deceived", and they were. What would be the point of it all if this was all there was? We should feel sorry for these folks. I mean they are "Sad You See"

Paul tells us...

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

You have to love the way that He answers them! We worship a God of the living, and He is alive, and we will never die! Jesus just confirmed that.

John 11:25-26

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

And that way we can confidently believe...

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Now the Scribes...

Mark 12:28-34

Jesus has a little different interaction with this group as they agreed with His answer. Here are the verses that He is quoting...

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

I find it interesting that Jesus added Mind to His rendering of it. He has the authority to do that as He did with the Sermon on the Mount. Notice the context of the next one...

Leviticus 19:18

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

But even with the agreement what does Jesus say? You are not far from the Kingdom of God. Did you catch that? You may be close but guess what? You are not there! Why? Because the law cannot and will not save you. It might get you close. In comparison you may be way up there but still just short. They have and will still reject Jesus. By doing that all they have is the law and they will be judged by it and found wanting. Don't make the same mistake!

Who is testing who?

Mark 12:35-37

Jesus understands their hangup on Him being the Messiah is that He is also God the Son. This was the one thing they could not grasp. So, He gets them to think by showing them what the word says. In Matthew we get some more context....

Matthew 22:41-42

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

Then He blows their mind by showing them what God says in quoting Psalm 110

Psalm 110:1

The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adoni), "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

How can He be His son? Good question! And only answered in the supernatural virgin birth of the Messiah. 100 percent man and 100 percent God!

Isaiah 11:1

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Jeremiah 23:5

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and

prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

Ezekiel 37:25

Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

Luke 1:32-33

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

He is the Son of David, the Son of Man, and the Son of God!

Beware of Religion!

Mark 12:38-40

Who will receive greater condemnation than the heathens? The self-righteous religious zealots! Why? Because religion always kills and takes as many with them that it can. The devil knows this and has no problem starting religions so people will

think they can make it to heaven. Religion blinds you from the truth because it boosts your pride to think you are good enough to get in. These guys had the very creator of the universe standing in front of them. He passed their tests. He is sinless and perfect. And in the madness of their zeal, they will have Him slain. Without a second thought they will shout “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!” But God will turn it all around on them. He will use the evil of their hearts and minds to bring about the greatest rescue in all of history. The same ones that have tested and rejected Him will be the ones that He will die for. Let’s leave with this thought...

1 Peter 1:18-21

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.