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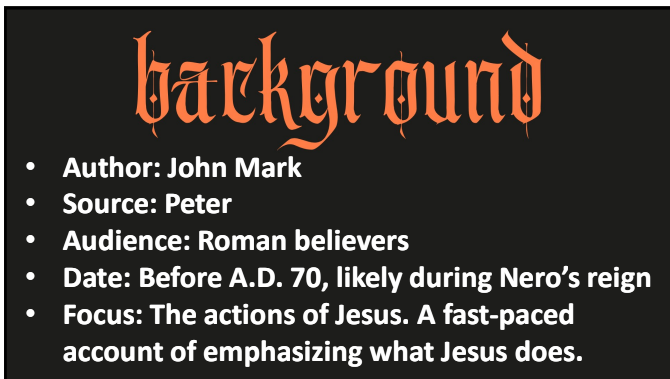
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# background

## Key Themes

- Jesus' authority
- Jesus as the suffering servant
- The cost of following Jesus
- Discipleship marked by sacrifice + faithfulness

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# MEMORY VERSE

## MARK 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

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## Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which command is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

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**Mark 12:28-34**

31 The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these." 32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. 33 And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."

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**Mark 12:28-34**

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to question him any longer.

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**I. Hearing Jesus (v.28)**

*“Seeing that He answered them well, he asked Him...”*

- This scribe observes Jesus’ interaction with others
- Unlike previous groups:
  - He recognized Jesus’s wisdom
- He is listening before speaking

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**I. Hearing Jesus (v.28)**

*“Seeing that He answered them well, he asked Him...”*

He noticed:

- Jesus didn’t dodge questions
- Jesus didn’t argue like the rabbis
- Jesus answered with clarity and authority

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**I. Hearing Jesus (v.28)**

This man asks a question—but his posture is different

- Others: trying to win
- Him: trying to understand

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Pride **argues**—  
humility *listens*.

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**"The attitude with which we  
approach Christ determines  
whether we leave with  
questions or with answers."**

**FF Bruce**

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**"The issue is never whether  
Jesus has spoken clearly,  
but whether we are  
listening carefully."**

**alister begg**

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**I. Hearing Jesus (v.28)**

**If you could ask one question, what would it be?**

**Would you listen to Jesus's answer or only listen for the answer that you want to hear?**

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**I. Hearing Jesus (v.28)**

**Do you come to Scripture to:**

- Confirm your view?
- Or be corrected by truth?

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**II. Jesus Answers with Authority (vv.29–31)**

*"Jesus answered..."*

**Jesus doesn't:**

- Debate interpretations
- Weigh rabbinical opinions
- Enter the argument culture

**He goes straight to ultimate truth**

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**II. Jesus Answers with Authority (vv.29–31)**

*“Jesus answered...”*

**The Answer (The Shema + Leviticus 19:18):**

- 1. Love God Completely (vv.29–30)**
- 2. Love Others Sacrificially (v.31)**

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**II. Jesus Answers with Authority (vv.29–31)**

*“Jesus answered...”*

**What’s Different About Jesus?**

- **Rabbis debated endlessly**
- **Jesus declares definitively**

**He doesn’t say:**

- **“Some say...”**
- **“One school teaches...”**

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**II. Jesus Answers with Authority (vv.29–31)**

*“Jesus answered...”*

**He doesn’t say:**

- **“Some say...”**
- **“One school teaches...”**

**He says:**

- **“This is truth.”**

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“When Jesus *speaks*, discussion ends and decision **begins.**”

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**II. Jesus Answers with Authority (vv.29–31)**  
Are you still “processing” what Jesus has clearly said?  
  
Where are you:  
• Delaying obedience?  
• Softening clear truth?

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**III. True Hearing and Right Understanding (vv.32–33)**  
*“You are right, Teacher...”*  
The scribe:  
• Affirms Jesus’ answer  
• Expands on it  
• Connects it to Scripture

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**III. True Hearing and Right Understanding  
(vv.32–33)**

*“You are right, Teacher...”*

He recognizes:

- God > ritual
- Love > sacrifice

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**III. True Hearing and Right Understanding  
(vv.32–33)**

*“You are right, Teacher...”*

This is not a shallow agreement—this is informed, thoughtful response.

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**“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, and to undermine our complacency.”**

**John Stott**

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Spiritual **growth** is when the *truth* that you used to avoid, **comforts** you.

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**III. True Hearing and Right Understanding (vv.32–33)**  
Has your theology changed your priorities?  
Do you value:  
• Relationship over ritual?  
• Heart over habit?

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**IV. Hearing Penetrates the Heart—But Must Lead to Surrender (v.34)**  
*“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”*  
Jesus affirms:  
• His understanding  
• His sincerity  
But says:  
“Not far” ≠ “in”

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**IV. Hearing Penetrates the Heart—But Must Lead to Surrender (v.34)**

This man:

- Heard truth
- Understood truth
- Agreed with truth

But had not yet:  
Submitted to Christ

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**“To hear God’s Word  
and refuse to obey it is  
to invite spiritual  
decay.”**

**aiden wilson tozer**

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**You can hear Jesus clearly  
and still reject Him quietly.**  
Hearing becomes dangerous  
when it *replaces* obeying.

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**IV. Hearing Penetrates the Heart—But Must Lead to Surrender (v.34)**

Are you:

- In the kingdom?
- Or just near it?
- What is keeping you from full surrender?

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**1. True Hearing Changes What You Value**

- Love becomes central
- Ritual becomes secondary

**2. You Can Be Close and Still Lost**

- Knowledge ≠ salvation
- Agreement ≠ transformation

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**takeaways**

The goal is not to *hear* Jesus,  
but to *follow* Him.

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