

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING**  
***A Study of the Gospel According to Mark***  
**Mark 12**

*Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011*

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all soul and with all your mind  
and with all your strength." Mark 12:30*


**Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.**

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

**Read Mark 12:1–12.**

1. We have seen throughout the Gospel of Mark the growing conflict between Jesus and the spiritual leaders of the time. What is the big issue at stake here? (Mark 1:22, 2:6–11, 11:27–28)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. To drive home his point after the discussion in 11:27–33, Jesus tells them a parable based on a well-known passage in Isaiah. Read Isaiah 5:1–7.  
What is meant in Jesus' parable by the:
  - a. Owner
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Vineyard
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Tenants
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Servants
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. Son
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. The culmination of the parable is a question: "What then will the owner of the vineyard do?" (v. 9a). Read the answer to this question in verse 9 and explain in your own words what Jesus means. (Matthew 21:43; Romans 11:13–14, 19–21)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Jesus uses Psalm 118:22–23 to reinforce the parable he has just told. How do these verses apply to Jesus? (vv. 10–11; Acts 4:10–12)

**Read Mark 12:13–17.**

5. The Pharisees and Herodians once more put aside their differences and join forces to trap Jesus by asking him a “no win” question (v. 13). Knowing their evil intent, Jesus outsmarts them by focusing their attention on a coin stamped with the image of Caesar. What is the lesson Jesus teaches? (v. 17;  Romans 13:1–7)

**Herodians**

“A loosely organized group that sought to advance the political and economic influence of the Herodian family (c 37BC-AD 93). Although the Herodians and the Pharisees were adversaries in regard to many political and religious issues, they join forces here to combat the perceived threat to their power and status.”<sup>1</sup>

**Heidelberg Confession**

- 1Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?  
A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil.  
...Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

6. Whose image is stamped on us? (Genesis 1:27)

7. What then do we owe him? (v. 30)

**Read Mark 12:18–27.**

8. What do you think the Sadducees were trying to accomplish with their hypothetical marital puzzle?

9. According to Jesus, the Sadducees were “in error because [they] do not know the Scriptures or the power of God” (v. 24). How can these help us handle difficult questions of the faith?

10. By using “the account of the burning bush” (v. 26), how does Jesus point out another basic flaw in the Sadducees’ thinking? (vv. 26–27)

**Read Mark 12:28–34.**

11. Yet another religious expert (this time, a scribe) comes to Jesus with a question. What seems different about this man and his response to Jesus?

**Scribes**

The official interpreters of the Old Testament. In Israel, scribes' duties included teaching, interpretation, and regulation of the law.<sup>2</sup>

12. Jesus answers by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Leviticus 19:18. Why are these two commands inextricably linked? (1 John 4:7–12, 20–21)

13. Jesus states that the man is “not far from the kingdom of God” (v. 34).

a. In what ways is he near the kingdom, and what is the step that he still needs to take to enter the kingdom? (Romans 10:8–10)

b. What are some ways that you are far from Jesus and what steps do you need to take to draw near? (Meditate on Deuteronomy 4:29, Psalm 145:18, Hebrews 10:22–23, and James 4:7–8.)

**Read Mark 12:35–37.**

14. Now it is Jesus' turn to ask questions (vv. 35, 37). In pointing to Psalm 110, what is the deep significance of this passage in what it says about his relationship to King David, his ancestor? (Romans 1:2–4)

**Read Mark 12:38–44.**

15. Jesus makes some severe accusations against the teachers of the law.

a. What are they? (vv. 38–40)

b. Put into your own words how we can easily fall into following their bad example.

