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By Dan Maines

Mark 12

Mark 12:1-12

And He began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard, and put a fence around it, and dug a vat under the wine press, and built a tower, and leased it to vine-growers, and went on a journey. At the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, so that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vine-growers. They took him, and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated

him shamefully. And he sent another one, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some and killing others. He had one more person to send, a beloved son; he sent him to them last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!' And they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and put the vine-growers to death, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read this Scripture: 'A stone which the builders rejected, This has become the chief cornerstone; This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?" And they were seeking to arrest Him, and yet they feared the crowd; for they understood that He told the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.

† The vineyard symbolized Israel, and the wicked tenants represented its leaders.

† The prophets were the beaten and killed servants, and Christ the Son was rejected and slain.

† The vineyard was taken from them and given to others — the kingdom transferred to the church.

Mark 12:13-17

Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. They came and said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to anyone, but You teach the way of God in truth. Is it permissible to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? Are we to pay, or not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at." They brought one. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And Jesus said to them, "Pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at Him.

- † The coin bore Caesar's image, but people bear God's image.
- † Jesus revealed that obedience to earthly authority does not cancel devotion to God.
- † His answer silenced their attempt to trap Him.

Mark 12:18-27

Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and began questioning Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves behind a wife, and does not leave a child, his brother is to take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother. There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no descendants. The second one married her, and died leaving behind no descendants; and the third likewise; and so the seven left no descendants. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, which one's wife will she be? For each of the seven had her as his wife." Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."

- † The Sadducees denied resurrection, but Jesus proved it from the Torah itself.
- † God's covenant promises made the patriarchs living, not dead.
- † Resurrection was not about earthly marriage but life in God's presence.

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What

commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is: 'Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no other besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask Him any more questions.

† Love for God and neighbor summed up the entire law.

† The scribe recognized truth beyond ritual, but he was still short of the kingdom.

† The New Covenant would fulfill what the law pointed toward.

Mark 12:35-37

And Jesus responded and continued teaching in the temple area: "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies under Your feet.'" David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

† Jesus showed that Messiah was more than David's son — He was David's Lord.

† Psalm 110 revealed His exalted kingship and divine authority.

† The crowd delighted in His wisdom, though leaders resisted Him.

Mark 12:38-40

And in His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like personal greetings in

the marketplaces, and seats of honor in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets; who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive all the more condemnation."

† Religious pride masked corruption and injustice.

† Pretentious piety was condemned rather than honored.

† Judgment was certain for those who abused their position.

Mark 12:41-44

And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and began watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts. And a poor widow came and put in two lepta, which amount to a quadrans. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all contributed out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

† The widow's offering revealed true devotion — sacrificial giving from the heart.

† God measures gifts not by amount but by cost and sincerity.

† Her act contrasted with the greedy leaders, exemplifying true covenant faith.

How it applies to us today:

† Mark 12 shows Christ as the rejected Son, the cornerstone, the wise Teacher, and the Lord above David. The fulfilled perspective reveals that His judgment on Israel's leaders was fulfilled in AD 70, and His kingdom rests on love, truth, and devotion. For us today, we are called to bear fruit, love God and neighbor, give sacrificially, and follow Christ as our true King.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † Josephus, Wars 6.2.4
- † Philo, On the Special Laws 2.63
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.13
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.36.2

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