

The Gospel of Mark
Session 24 – July 17th – Chapter 12

Odds & Ends from Chapter 11

v. 17 Jesus' quote from Jeremiah 7 and OT references.
What was Jeremiah warning of? What Happened?
What came of Jesus' quote/warning?

This theme, seen also in the fig tree incident and seen again in Chap. 12:1-12, shows us the consistency of OT & NT: God will bring judgment against sin.

Where we left off: By whose authority? "I will not tell you."

Chapter 12

Note the rising tension and opposition on both sides.

vv. 1-12 Parable of the Tenants

Who is the man in the parable? Who are the tenants? What have they been given? What is expected of them? What do they do instead?
What is God's reaction to rebellion?
Has Jesus answered the priests, scribes, & elders by whose authority he acts?

vv. 13-17 Render to Caesar & God

Note who comes together to ask this question of Jesus.
Aren't you glad for the traps of lies & flattery these guys kept making up?
Jesus' clever answer highlights (at least) three things:

1. Do people have an obligation to the governing authorities?
2. Which things belong to God?
3. And, specifically, what else? Whose "likeness & inscription" ...?

vv. 18-27 Marriage & the Resurrection

More traps and deception.
What 2 things don't the Sadducees understand?
"...like the angels..." *in this particular way!* (Careful not to read *into* Scripture)
The God of the living. Let that sink in. Don't forget.

vv. 28-34 The Greatest Commandment

What does this particular scribe hold as important? (Compared to the others).

vv. 35-37 David's Lord

Jesus teaches us about his own status in relationship to King David.

What does Jesus also teach us about the nature of the Old Testament texts?

vv. 38-44 How Not to Behave & How to Behave

These next two segments hang together and echo the repeated teaching Jesus has given to his disciples about how their lives should be lived when following him.

A negative example: the scribes. What is their concern?

A positive example: the widow. What characterizes her actions?

The chapters ahead:

13 Things to come for Jerusalem and the world

14 The plot against Jesus & arrest – Jesus' prophecies come true, Pt. I

15 Delivery to Gentiles, mocking, & killing – Jesus' prophecies come true, II

16 The resurrection – Jesus' prophecies come true, III

Concluding topics: The end of Mark's Gospel; What has St. Peter taught us?