

*in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.”*

- This is a ridiculous scenario that could only be duplicated in Hollywood! (cf. Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

#### **Jesus & the Afterlife – 12:24-27**

- Life is superior in heaven – the former things are passed away!

#### **Question #4**

*Mark 12:28, “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’”*

- Each religious group, offended at Jesus, was trying to trap Him. The scribes get in on the inquisition!
- One leading rabbi taught Moses received <sup>(13)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ commandments!
- Surprising them again, Jesus quotes <sup>(14)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ which is, although not one of the 10 Commandments transcends them all.

*Mark 12:29, “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. 31) And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

#### **No one dared question Him – 12:32-34**



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**Pastor Jerry Johnston's Sermon  
Wednesday, December 23, 2009  
“The First and Greatest Commandment”  
Message #18 in the series, “Your Miracle in the Mirror of Mark”**

Bible Text: Mark 12:1-32, pp. 1668

 **“I know now, Lord, why You utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before Your face questions die away. What other answer would suffice?”**  
-C. S. Lewis

#### **CONTEXT**

>>> The DAY is <sup>(1)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in the final week of Jesus' life.

>>> The LOCATION is the Jewish <sup>(2)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.

#### **QUESTION #1**

*Mark 11:27, “Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes and elders came to Him. 28) By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?”*

>>> On <sup>(3)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus drove out the merchandisers from the Temple. Anger toward our Lord was mounting.

*Mark 11:15, “So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16) And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.”*

>>> The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders were questioning Jesus' authority to minister?

*Mark 11:33, “So they answered and said to Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I*

do these things.”

### THE VINEYARD PARABLE – 12:1-12

Mark 12:1, “Then He began to speak to them in parables.”

- A parable is a story that illustrates an <sup>(4)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ truth. Jesus used parables to expose the self-righteousness of His critics and extol the kingdom of God.

### IN THE VINEYARD PARABLE

- The owner of the vineyard is <sup>(5)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- The vineyard itself is God’s covenant people <sup>(6)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- The <sup>(7)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ knew exactly what Jesus was saying!

### Read Isaiah 5:1-7

- This vineyard was given all equipment: wall for protection; winepress; tower, etc.
- Isaiah 5:5-6 speak of 586 B.C.

### In Mark 12:1-11

- The “vinedressers” represent the <sup>(8)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (v. 2).
- The “servant” sent to the “vinedressers” represent the <sup>(9)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- The “one Son” the vinedressers <sup>(10)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 6-8) represent Jesus Christ.
- The judgment of God on Israel; 722 B.C., 586 B.C., A.D. 70, fulfill v. 9.
- Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23 in Mark 12 :10-11.

### The Response to Jesus’ Preaching

Mark 12:12, “And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multi-

tude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.”

### Question #2

Mark 12:13, “Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words. 14) When they had come, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? 15) Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?’”

- The Pharisees and Herodians attempted to flatter Jesus (12:14).

Mark 12:15b, “But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, ‘Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it.’ 16) So they brought it. And He said to them, ‘Whose image and inscription is this?’ They said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ 17) And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they marveled at Him.”

- God’s Word teaches we should pay our <sup>(11)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and pay our <sup>(12)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_!

Romans 13:1, “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. 2) Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”

Leviticus 27:30, “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.”

### Question #3

Mark 12:18, “Then some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: 19) ‘Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man’s brother dies, and leaves his wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 20) Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. 21) And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leaven any offspring. And the third likewise. 22) So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. 23) Therefore,