



THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

Questions & Answers

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Mark 11:27 – 12:12

Gospel of Mark

- week of Passover
- Triumphal Entry – hailed as King
- Picture of the fig tree
- Tantrum at the Temple
- Clear – authority over all

“And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘From man’?”—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

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And he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

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What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.”

1. Setting a Trap

a) Who was involved

- chief priests, scribes, elders

b) The Question

- do you have a basis for this teaching
- who gave you this authority

c) The Response

- baptism of John – heaven or man?

d) the Conference

- from heaven – John proclaimed Jesus Messiah
- from man – John clearly heralded as a prophet, followed by many, would cause a revolt

e) the Tap Out

- don't know – only way out
- Jesus – I won't answer your trick question

2. Parable of the Tenants

a) Owner & Actions

- all provided, leased, absent owner

b) Collection of Agreement & Response

- sent servant vs. 2, beaten & sent away
- sent servant vs. 4, struck on head & treated shamefully
- sent servant vs. 5, killed
- sent many others – beaten, killed, agreement not kept

c) Final Effort

- son, with authority, will respect him
- killed – with desire to take ownership of vineyard

d) Judgement

- destroy those tenants
- give vineyard to others

3. Decoding the Parable

a) God provides for His children – the Owner

- Passover week – out of slavery into promised land
- clear relationship with God, blessings and consequences
- system of leaders and care of the people

b) God calls them into right relationship, much rejection

- sent prophets to call back from sin, enter into blessing
- some response to prophets, many rejected
- Jesus is the son – will be killed by leaders in less than a week

- Heb. 11:32,36-38 “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

- reference to John the Baptist – see Mk. 6

- plotting to kill Jesus underway – looking for a chance

c) God's Judgment will Come

- destruction of temple will be 70 AD
- veil to Holy of Holies by weeks end
- system of knowing God through Israel alone – over

d) Jesus the Cornerstone

- building term – align whole structure off this
- psalm 118 quoted – same psalm used in triumphal entry
- see 1 Peter 2:7

4. Discovery about God

a) All Belongs to God

- Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein”

- created to be caretakers, stewards, Gen. 2:15

- very clear about giving back a portion

- Deut. 8:17-18 “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

b) Incredibly Patient with Us

- Psalm 103:8 “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
- lovingly calling people to respond, back to right relationship

c) Depth of Love Amazing

- Psalm 100:5 “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”
- 1 John 4:9 “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

e) God Will Judge

- Psalm 9:7-8 “But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.”
- will be an accounting before the living God
- destruction of the unfaithful

So What

1. Jesus Has Authority

- Matt. 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
- Establishes covenant relationship and the boundaries

2. Jesus has Provided

- time and space for your life, ability for relationship with God
- ability for you to respond – hear the truth, realigned

3. You Choose the Response

- accountable for the results