



Questions for Jesus

Text: Mark 12:13-27

Context: Jesus is still in Jerusalem and He has been teaching and acting with authority. People are taking notice while the political and religious leaders conspire against Him (Mk 11:18, 28; and 12:12). Now “*They*” (13:1) are sending *experts* to trap Jesus with political controversy and a contrived case study of rare law. “*They*” are about to encounter the Servant King who redefines what it really means to know and understand Scripture.

Read Mark 12:13-27

1) Jesus amazed His enemies (Mark 12:13-17)

What have we learned about the Pharisees in Mark? Why would the Pharisees be so concerned with paying taxes to Caesar? How does Jesus avoid the Pharisees trap?

2) Ignorance of God’s Word leads to misunderstanding God. (Mark 12:18-23)

Context: The Sadducees were a Jewish sect that based doctrine and religious practice exclusively on Genesis – Deuteronomy (The Pentateuch). Because of this view, they did not believe in life after death. Jesus is about to point out their ignorance of Scriptures in the next section (24-27). In the meantime, these experts use an *obscure* Levirate marriage law (Deuteronomy 25:5) to prove their anti-resurrection doctrine; Yet they miss an *obvious* reference that proves life after death (Exodus 3:6). Their ignorance of God’s Word caused them to misunderstand God and underestimate His power.

What’s your reaction to the Sadducees?

3) Understanding God’s Word leads to hope. (Mark 12:24-27)

What do we learn about Jesus in His response to the Sadducees? What does it mean that God is the “*God of the Living*” (v27)? What did you learn about the resurrection in this passage from Jesus?

BIG IDEA: (Don’t be “sad” like the Sadducees.) Pursue God’s Word to know and understand Jesus. (v24)

The real life impact of knowing, understanding and trusting God’s Word is clear in this passage. Ignorance of God’s Word and lack of understanding can lead to legalism, empty or harmful doctrine and underestimating the power of God. Following the Servant King redefines how we engage and respond to God’s Word.

How are we supposed to engage and respond to God’s Word? (see 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12)

How has a misunderstanding of God’s Word impacted your life? How was this corrected?

What can you do this week to develop a better understanding of God’s Word?

Next Week’s Passage: Mark 12:28-34 / Foremost Commandment