

“Tempting Questions & Wise Answers”

Mark 12¹⁻²⁷

Introductory Question(s)

Q – If you owned a garden or an orchard, what would you grow?

Q – If you had to entrust your business or belongings to someone outside your family, whom would you choose and why?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Mark 12:1-12.** How long do you think the man worked on the vineyard to make it ready to rent? If you were the owner of the vineyard, what kind of return would you be hoping for on your investment?
- 2) Who does the owner initially send to collect his share of the harvest (v.2)? How do the tenants respond? What surprises you more, the repeated response of the owner or that of the tenants (vv.4-5)?
- 3) What does the owner finally do to change how he tries to collect his share (v.6)? Are you surprised by the tenants’ response in verses 7-8? By the owners’ final response in verse 9? Why or why not?
- 4) Why do you think religious leaders “knew he had spoken the parable against them” (*cf.* Isaiah 5¹⁻⁷)?¹
- 5) **Read Mark 12:13-17.** The liberal Herodians (politically pro-Rome) and the conservative Pharisees make strange partners. Why were they suddenly working together? How did they try to trap Jesus?
- 6) What did Jesus mean when he said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”?
- 7) **Read Mark 12:18-27.** Why was the Sadducees’ question an odd one for *them* to ask? Why ask it?
- 8) What was surprising about Jesus’ response (for them? For you?)?
- 9) What have you learned about God’s power and/or God’s Word lately that has helped you?

¹ See also other references to Israel as “the vine/vineyard” (Psalm 80:8-9; Isaiah 27:2; Jeremiah 2:21; *cf.* John 15). It is also worth noting that the Psalm Jesus quotes from in Mk 12¹⁰⁻¹¹ (Ps 118²²⁻²³) is the same one the crowds sang in 11⁹⁻¹⁰ (118²⁵⁻²⁶) which would *contrast* the crowds’ celebration at Jesus coming and the Jewish leaders public rejection of him.