

JESUS MEETS INCREASING HOSTILITY

Mark 11:27–12:44

Memorize God's Word for the week: Mark 12:30-31.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 11:27-33—THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

1. To what do the religious leaders refer when they use the phrase "*these things*"?
2. How does Jesus respond to them?
3. What dilemma faces the religious leaders in this dialogue?
4. On what basis do people today question the authority of Jesus' teachings (e.g, traditions, science, popular opinion)?

DAY 2: MARK 12:1-12—THE PARABLE OF THE SON

5. After reading Isaiah 5:1-7 for additional insight, explain your understanding of the deeper meaning of:
 - a. the vineyard and its preparation
 - b. the owner and his expectations
 - c. the tenant-farmers and their actions
 - d. the servants and their fate
 - e. the only son and his task
 - f. the owner's response to the son's murder (See also Romans 11:11.)
6. In what ways throughout history has the world responded to Jesus, the Son God sent to be its Savior?
7. How does the apostle John describe the world's response to Jesus in John 1:9-12; 3:16-19?

DAY 3: MARK 12:13-27—MORE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

8. What was hypocritical in the words and motives of the Pharisees and Herodians (12:13-14)?
9. What do you think the Sadducees were trying to do with their somewhat absurd question (Mark 12:18-23)?

10. What did Jesus point to as the root causes of their flawed thinking (12:24-27)?
11. Do you see these same root causes producing flawed thinking today? How?

DAY 4: MARK 12:28-34—THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

12. What do you see in these verses that suggests a different attitude from past question-and-answer sessions between Jesus and the Jewish leaders?
13. In response to the question posed, Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:17-18. What do these verses reveal about the love that God desires from His people?
14. How might obedience to the first commandment help you fulfill the second?

DAY 5: MARK 12:35-44—ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE

15. How does Jesus describe the teachers of the Law?
16. How does He describe the poor widow?
17. What does the high value Jesus places on the widow's meager offering suggest to you?
18. The teacher of the Law (Mark 12:28-34) affirmed the truth that obedience is more important than religious sacrifices. What sacrifices does God desire according to these Scriptures?
 - a. Psalm 51:16-17
 - b. Hosea 6:6
 - c. Hebrews 13:15-16

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. When Jesus was questioned, He seemed to tailor His answers to the motives and needs of the person asking the question. Each of the Gospel writers observes that He "*knew their thoughts*" (Matthew 12:25; 22:18; Mark 2:8; Luke 6:8; 11:17; John 2:25). Although we will never discern another's motives or thoughts with the accuracy possessed by Jesus, His children can certainly appropriate the "*mind of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 2:16), asking for insight, wisdom, sensitivity, and discernment from the Spirit of God. How often a wise answer or an insightful question can deepen a relationship, heal a wound, encourage as well as challenge. Take time to identify a relationship in which you could apply the principles learned in this lesson. Give that situation to God and expectantly watch for His provision _____ in _____ the _____ days _____ ahead.