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Mark 12

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Mark 12.

Topics.

- The parable of man who planted a vineyard.
- The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- The stone that the builders rejected.
- Render to Caesar things that are Caesar's and to God things that are Gods.
- Sadducees say there is no resurrection.
- All are like angels in heaven.
- How can the Scribes say that Christ is the son of David?
- A widow puts in two copper coins in the offering box.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt then went to Bethany and on the way cursed a fig tree. He returned with the twelve to Jerusalem and overturned the moneychanger's tables, the chief priests and scribes hear what Jesus did and seek to destroy him.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

MARK 12:1-9

1

The Parable of Man who Planted a Vineyard.

- **Mark 12:1-9:** And he began to speak to them (the Chief Priests, the Scribes and the Elders) (Mark 11:26) 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. ²When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. ⁶He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ⁷But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

The vineyard: is a symbol of the Kingdom of God.

The man: is symbol of God.

The servants: are symbols of the Old Testament prophets.

The tenants: are as symbols of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes).

The son: is a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God gave the people of Israel the land of Canaan (the Kingdom of God) and established His Holy City Jerusalem in it He put angels around its borders and gave them commandments and laws to govern it and promises of abundant blessing for obeying and curses for rebelling and

then left them to manage the Kingdom. The religious leaders of Israel and the people constantly turned from the LORD and His ways so He sent prophet after prophet to direct them in the right way, but they did not listen to the prophets, but continued to go their own way and even worse they beat some and even killed others. The parable then moves to the tenants of the land during the New Testament period, (i.e. the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who the LORD sent His very own Son to, but they like the Old Testament prophets beat and killed him.

The LORD will destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others (V9). The Lord totally destroyed the tenants of the Kingdom (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. After Christ's resurrection the entire structure of the Levitical priesthood was totally done away with, because no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them as Jesus is the perfect eternal High Priest for everyone who believes.

NOTE: the others the LORD gave the Kingdom to, was the Gentiles.

MARK 12:10-17

The Stone that the Builders rejected has become the Cornerstone.

- **Mark 12:10-17:** Have you not read this Scripture:" The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" ¹²And they (the chief priests, the scribes and the elders) (Mark 11:26) 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. ¹³And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴And they came and said to him "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" ¹⁵But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." ¹⁶And they brought one And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marvelled at him.

2

The statement, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" (V11-12) is cited from the following verses:

- David says, the way to the LORD is through righteousness and that righteousness is the gate or door to the LORD and those who come to the LORD will enter by the gate or door.

Then in verse twenty-two he echoes the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³This is the LORD 's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us (Psalm 118:19-20).

The stone is the Lord Jesus Christ he is the cornerstone meaning the starting point of the building. This entire plan regarding everything according to the life of Christ including his betrayal and Crucifixion was in the eternal plan of God since before the foundation of the earth.

The Pharisees and Herodians try to Trap Jesus: the chief priests, the scribes and the elders (Mark 11:26) understood that Jesus was speaking this parable against them, In the previous chapter they tried to trap Jesus with questions but failed miserably so gave up thus the reason they are

now sending some Pharisees and Herodians to trap him with questions. The hypocritical Pharisees and Herodians ask Jesus a question not because they want to know the answer but to trap him, but once again Jesus being the master of the human mind and language gives them an answer that leaves them without a response.

Render to Caesar things that are Caesar's and to God things that are God's: the statement, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Does not mean give the money due to Caesar and the money due to God to the church, the things that are Caesar's are the taxes and the laws of the country. Jesus is saying obey the laws of the country and do what the authorities of the country command. Whereas the things that are to be rendered to God's are love, honour, worship and praise and toward others mercy, kindness, forgiveness, love etc. The thing God delights in is when His people treat others with respect and decency and show justice and fairness to all.

MARK 12:18-25

Sadducees say there is no Resurrection.

- **Mark 12:18-25:** And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹"Teacher, Moses wrote for us (Israel) that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. ²¹And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. ²²And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. ²³In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." ²⁴Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

3

Sadducees were a heretical sect of the Jews that became the party favourable to the Roman government because they were more interested in maintaining the political status quo than in the religious purity of Israel. They were satisfied with the present and did not look forward to a future Messianic age or believe in the resurrection. They joined the scribes and Pharisees in their attempt to destroy Jesus.

The law of marriage, death and offspring is cited from the following verse:

- **Deuteronomy 25:5-6:** "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

This law was all about the inheritance of the land, and keeping each portion of land in the tribe it was originally allotted to.

All are like angels in heaven: (v25) there have been many amazing miracles throughout the Bible, but they will all be dwarfed when the awesome and majestic power of God is manifested at the resurrection of all those who have died in faith, dead and decayed bodies will be raised to eternal life and be like the angels to dwell with God and Christ forever. Everyone will be engulfed in the absolute splendour and beauty of God's abundant love, no individual will feel the need to have only one special person to love him or her because the emotion of emptiness and loneliness in the human heart will not exist in the resurrected eternal body, added to this God's pure love will permeate like a sweet smelling fragrance everyone in the family of God.

I am the God of Abraham the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

- **Mark 12:26-27:** And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

It was from the burning bush the LORD said, "I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exod. 3:6, 14-15)." These three were buried with their fathers and are sleeping, waiting for the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) that's why the LORD from the burning bush said, "He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." God knows that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be resurrected at the first resurrection when Christ returns in glory. Jesus is pointing out to the Sadducees whose entire faith was built upon Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but who did not believe that there would be a resurrection that if Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were not going to be resurrection that would mean that God is the God of the dead and not the God of the living. These verses also show that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not alive in heaven at this present time (as some believe). The entire focus of this conversation Jesus is having with the Sadducees is upon the resurrection. Jesus is using Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to prove to the Sadducees that there will be a resurrection because God is the God of the living and not the God of the dead.

NOTICE: in the resurrection the mighty and awesome power of God will transform those who are resurrected to be like the angels in heaven, meaning they will be eternal and so much more, what an amazing and glorious future for those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen, then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again. Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Hebrews 11:3).

MARK 12:28-34

Which Commandment is the Most Important of All?

- **Mark 12:28-34:** And one of the scribes came up and heard them (the Pharisees Herodians and Sadducees) disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴And when Jesus saw that he (the scribe) answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Jesus himself says, "That there is only one true God and no other beside him," clearly showing us that Jesus the Son of God is not God the Father as many in some circles of Christianity believe today.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God 'and' Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The first commandment: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (v30).

The second commandment: you shall love your neighbour as yourself (v31). James calls it the Royal law in the New Testament, it means, do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves. To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

How can the Scribes say that Christ is the son of David?

- **Mark 12:35-37:** And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, " 'The Lord (JEHOVAH) said to my Lord, (Christ the Anointed, Israel's Messiah) Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'³⁷David himself calls him Lord (Christ). So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

David calls Christ his Lord in (Matt. 22:41-46) (Luke 20:41-43).

Matthew, Mark and Luke are cited from the following Psalm of David:

- The LORD (JEHOVAH) said to my (David's) Lord (the Christ) "Sit at My (JEHOVAH) right hand, Till I (JEHOVAH) make Your (Christ's) enemies Your (Christ's) footstool (Psalm 110:1).

Peter says David was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would set one of David's descendants on David's throne, and being a prophet foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ (Acts 2:29-31). Peter then says, "David himself said, "The LORD (JEHOVAH) said to my Lord (Christ), Sit at My (JEHOVAH) right hand, until I (JEHOVAH) make your (Christ's) enemies your footstool (Acts 2:34-36). Jesus uses these verses to show that he cannot be David's Son. Jesus descended from David's bloodline through Mary and Joseph, so in this sense he is the promised seed of David, but His Father is not Joseph but God through the Holy Spirit so in this sense he is not the Son of David. Jesus no-doubt used the prophetic words of David because he knew that the Jews highly esteemed him even to this day, they have a memorial tomb of David. Jesus is pointing out to the Jews a Bible principle which says, "Children are to honour their parents" meaning esteem them and not the other way around. To the Jewish mind a father would never be considered less than his natural born son thus the reason Jesus is pointing out to the Jews if the Christ was to be a natural born grandchild of David's, how come he makes himself less than his grandson by calling him Lord, something no Jewish father would do. Therefore, Jesus says to the Pharisees, if David calls Israel's coming Messiah the Christ his Lord how can he be David's natural born descendant or son?

6

The Pharisees dilemma: the dilemma for the Jews is that Bible prophecy does say that Israel's Messiah will come from the loins of David. This means from his bloodline or his descendants (Acts 2:29-36 above). Joseph Jesus foster father was from the bloodline of David's son Solomon, while Mary was from the bloodline of David's son Nathan. In this sense prophecy was fulfilled in that Jesus descended from the bloodline of David, but technically Joseph was the foster father while God was Jesus real Father. The Pharisees did not accept the virgin birth or that Jesus was the Son of God, therefore they could not answer Jesus question. The Pharisees esteemed King David and knew he was a great King and prophet of Israel, but they also knew that a Jewish father would not call his own natural born son his Lord; once again Jesus had completely stumped the Pharisees with his question to them.

MARK 12:38-40

Scribes, loved being Esteemed and the Feeling of Importance.

- **Mark 12:38-40:** And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts, ⁴⁰who devour widows' houses and for pretence make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

The attitude of the scribes was one of self-importance they liked to look important, to be esteemed above others and to sit in the best seats and not only did they love taking money they had no compassion for those who couldn't afford to give, but rather put heavy guilt trips on them to

force or manipulate them to give. This is most likely why Paul tells the Corinthians to give according to what they can afford and not so that they would be burdened (2 Cor. 8:12-13) and to let each person make up their own mind, so it is not an act of compulsion or an exaction (an excessive or unjust demand), for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:5-7). Religious ministers who act like the scribes Jesus says will receive the greater condemnation.

MARK 12:41-42

A Widow puts in Two Copper Coins in the Offering Box.

- **Mark 12:41-42:** And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins (two mites in KJV) which make a penny (farthing in KJV).

The Pharisees and the rich would have looked at this poor widow and considered her offering as being worthless and in money terms and buying power compared to the wealthy Pharisees and the rich what she gave probably was worthless, but the value to God is not in the monies buying power but in what it cost the woman to give, the Lord her giving was priceless. When a person does something that cost them, financially, or in time or labour and they do it for God, what they are doing becomes, an action that shows or manifest their belief in Him and their love for Him that kind of sacrifice becomes treasure in heaven. A similar principal regarding labour instead of money could be likened to a person who does not work at all, and gives one full day of labour to some good deed or charity contrasted to another person who works all week and overtime to support their family and gives two hours to good deeds or charity, it is costing the person giving the two hours far more in time than the person giving the one full day because the person giving the two hours has a lot less time to give. The principal applies to any type of giving. The Lord does not look at giving in regards to what it can achieve in this world, but what it cost the person to give it, thus the reason he widows mite was so precious to the Lord, but that does not mean the only type of giving the Lord values is giving that hurts the human heart of the one giving or puts them into financial difficulty we know this because the apostle Paul says, give according to what you can afford and not so you are burdened (2 Cor. 8:12-13). Remember Jesus is speaking to hypocritical self-righteous and prideful religious leaders who considered a poor woman's gift as worthless. Jesus is encouraging all those who compared to the rich have very little to give to help others and showing them that even a little is valued by their heavenly Father in heaven regardless of its buying power on earth.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
