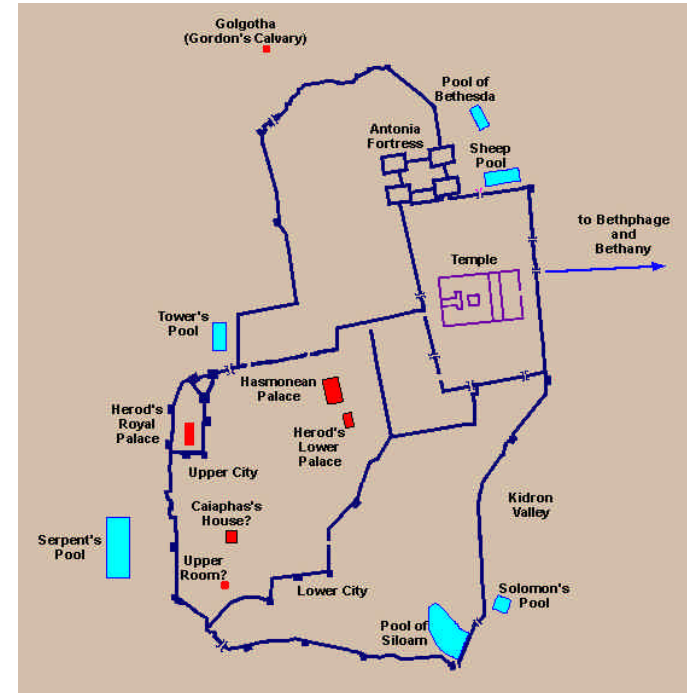


7. Read 12:13-17. Why is this question a dangerous trap for Jesus?

8. How do people use religion to make themselves look good to others?

9. Why do you give to God's work? Besides money, what else do you give?

Chapter Twelve KINGDOM PRIORITIES



WHERE IS JESUS?

1. In the Temple Courts

OVERVIEW: Chapter twelve begins with the final parable of Jesus in the Gospel. Jesus continues to teach in the Temple courts and the religious leaders continue to look for ways to trap Him. When they couldn't find any immediate way to trip Him up, they left Him and went away because they were growing increasingly afraid of the crowds following Him.

The Sadducees, a group of religious leaders who denied the resurrection and didn't accept any Scripture except the Books of Moses, tried to dispute Jesus' teaching about the resurrection, but He clearly showed that they didn't understand what the Scriptures taught at all.

One religious leader engages Jesus in a dialogue about the greatest commandment. When the man agrees with Jesus' reply, Jesus declares that he is "not far from the kingdom of God." At that point, all the questions stopped from Jesus' adversaries. This also marks the end of the public teaching of Jesus. From here on out, only the disciples are involved in His teaching.

Read Mark 12:1.

? "*Them.*" The crowd probably included the disciples, the Pharisees, Jews and possibly even Gentiles. It probably also included the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Supreme Court), who were plotting to kill Jesus.

Read Mark 12:13

? "*Catch*" The Greek word here is ***argeusosin***, and is used to refer to catching wild animals in a trap. This is the only place it is used in the New Testament.

Read Mark 12:15.

? "*Denarius.*" A denarius was the usual wage for a day's work for a laborer. It was a Roman coin with Caesar's picture on it.

3. Read 12:1-12. Who is represented by each of the characters in this parable?

4. What impact did this parable have on the people who heard it?

5. What things do you do in your life each day to make Jesus feel welcomed? What do you do that makes Him feel unwanted?

6. Does Jesus seem more like a capstone or a millstone in your life? Why? What's the difference?

9. Read 12:41-44. What does Jesus say about God's view of offerings?

FOR YOUR GROUP STUDY:

1. What observations have you made in your study of Mark this week?

2. If you had to entrust your belongings or your business to someone outside your family, whom would you choose? Why?

Read Mark 12:17.

? "*Amazed*" The Greek word here is ***exethaumazon***, and it is in the imperfect tense, which gives it the meaning "continually greatly amazed." This is the only place in the New Testament where this verb is used in this tense.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY:

1. Read 12:1-12. To whom was Jesus directing this parable and who is the stone the builders rejected?

2. How do the religious leaders respond to this parable?

3. Read 12:13-17. What question was Jesus asked in v. 14? What was His answer?

4. Read 12:18-27. How did Jesus answer the Sadducees' question about marriage at the resurrection? (see v. 23)

5. Read 12:28-34. What did Jesus say were the greatest commands?

6. Verses 32-34 occur only in Mark. Why do you think no one dared to ask Jesus a question after this?

7. Read 12:35-37. How did Jesus show that the teachers of the law were confused about who He really was?

8. Read 12:38-40. What warning does Jesus give about the religious leaders?