

Mark / Chapter 12

Short Summaries

In Mark 12, Jesus is asked by a scribe what the most important commandment is. Jesus answers with the Shema, a Jewish creed that affirms God's unity, and adds that the second commandment is like it: to love God with all one's heart, soul, and strength.

In Mark 12, Jesus is asked about the most important commandment. He replied that the most important commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. The second most important commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself.

Summaries

Jesus tells a story about a man who had two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and leaves home. He spends all his money and has to return home. His father welcomes him back with open arms. The older son is angry and doesn't want to forgive his brother. Jesus asks which of the two sons is more like the father.

The people of Israel are questioning Jesus' authority, and so he tells them a parable about a man with two sons. The first son says he will not work in the vineyard, but later changes his mind and does. The second son says he will work in the vineyard, but does not. Jesus concludes that the first son, who initially disobeyed but later repented, is more righteous than the second son.

Application Questions

Who is the Messiah?

What is the greatest commandment?

What do these verses teach us about how we should live our lives?

What does it mean to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's"?

What does Jesus warn us about the teachers of the law?

What is the Widow's Offering?

What does the resurrection teach us about marriage?

What does the parable of the tenants teach us about God's character?

Exegetical Questions

What is the importance of the widow's offering in Mark 12:41-44?

How would you interpret Jesus's remarks about marriage and divorce in Mark 12:25?

How does the parable of the tenants in Mark 12 illustrate God's relationship with Israel?

How does the Resurrection figure into Jesus's teaching on marriage in Mark 12:18-27?

What is the significance of the commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself" in Mark 12:31?

Who are the "teachers of the law" whom Jesus's warns against in Mark 12:38, and what is their error?

What is the meaning of Caesar's coin in Mark 12:15-17?

How would you explain the meaning of Jesus's statement in Mark 12:17 that the Messiah is "the Son of God"?

Observation Questions

What do the tenants do to the servants?

What does the owner do to the tenants?

What do the tenants do to the son?

What does Jesus say about the scribes?

What is the parable of the tenants about?

Why does the owner send his son to the tenants?

Who do the people say the son is?

Why do the scribes say that the widow is putting in more than others?

Group Discussion Questions

What is the significance of the widow's offering in Mark 12:41-44?

What is the overall message of Mark 12?

What does the parable of the tenants in Mark 12 teach us about God's character?

What does Mark 12 tell us about the nature of marriage in the resurrection?

How do we apply the warning against the teachers of the law in Mark 12:38-40 to our lives today?

How should we interpret the command to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" in light of our Christian faith?

Why do the scribes and Pharisees's question Jesus in Mark 12:15?

What is the greatest commandment according to Mark 12?