

***LIFE OF A SERVANT*****Some Things Are More Certain than Death or Taxes!****Mark 12**

*“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.’ ”* Mark 12:17

**Day 1: Read Mark 12:1–12.**

1. What is represented in the parable by:
  - a. The Owner:
  - b. The Vineyard: (Is. 5:1-7)
  - c. The Tenants:
  - d. The Servants:
  - e. The Son:
2. What is germinating in the tenant’s hearts that causes them to treat the servants as they do? (vs. 7)
3. Examine your own heart and give an example of something that you have tried to keep for yourself that rightfully belongs to God.
4. The culmination of the parable is a question; “What then will the owner of the vineyard do?” Expand on what the answer means. (See Matt. 21:43; Romans 11:13–14; 19–21.)
5. Jesus uses Psalm 118:22–23 to reinforce the parable he had just told. How do these verses apply to Jesus? (Acts 4:11)

**Day 2: Read Mark 12:13–17; 28–31.**

6. Why does that dastardly duo (the Pharisees and Herodians) once more put aside their differences and join forces? (vs.13; Mark 3:6) How and why do they attempt to butter Jesus up in order to make him more susceptible to their plotting?
7. The question, “Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” seems to allow only a yes or no answer. What is the danger to Jesus in answering in either of these ways? How does Jesus show that he is on to them? (vs. 15)
8. Jesus focuses the religious leaders’ attention on a Roman coin. What are the questions he asks? (vs. 16) What should our response as Christians be to the demands of government? (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Tim. 2:1–6; 1 Pet. 2:13–17)

9. Because God's image is stamped on us rather than a coin, what do we owe him? (vss. 29–30)

**Day 3: Read Mark 12:18–27.**

10. How does Mark describe the Sadducees? (vs. 18) What happens to our faith if there is no resurrection? (1 Cor. 15:12–19)
11. What were the Sadducees trying to prove with their ridiculous marital puzzle?
12. According to Jesus, what was the Sadducees' problem? (vs. 24) How do you allow the Sadducees' errors to creep into your own life?
13. By using the "account of the bush" (vs. 26) how does Jesus point up another basic flaw in the Sadducees' thinking?

**Day 4: Read Mark 12:28–34.**

14. What does the teacher of the law ask Jesus?
15. What is Jesus' answer? Why are these two commands inextricably linked? (1 John 4:7–12, 20–22)
16. Jesus reflects that the man is "not far from the kingdom of God." In what ways is he near the kingdom, and what is the step that he still needs to take? (Romans 10:8–10) What are some ways that you are far from Jesus and what steps do you need to take to draw near? (Meditate on Psalm 145:18; Ephesians 2:17–18; James 4:8)

**Day 5: Read Mark 12:35–44.**

17. In pointing to Psalm 110, what is the question that Jesus poses? Is this simply a trick question or does this have a deeper significance? (Rom 1:2–4)
18. List the three charges Jesus makes against these false teachers. What is the heart attitude behind them? Read over the list and allow God's Spirit to cause you to repent of ways that your heart's attitude mirrors any of these.
19. What does Jesus mean when he says, "this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others"? (2 Cor. 8:2; 9:6–7; Mark 8:35) What changes do you need to make in your life to imitate this woman?