

Sunday, January 29, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 11:27-12:12—Jesus' Authority Questioned and the Parable of the Householder

Mark 11:27-33

- **27) And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,**
 - 28) And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?**
 - 29) And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.**
 - 30) The baptism of John, was *it* from heaven, or of men? answer me.**
 - 31) And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him?**
 - 32) But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all *men* counted John, that he was a prophet indeed.**
 - 33) And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.**
- Mark 11:27-28—remember that during the last week of his life Christ has been commuting as it were back and forth between Bethany and Jerusalem. During the day Christ has been teaching and healing people in the temple and returning back to Bethany in the evening.
 - Mark 11:11-12; 15; 27
 - According to verses 27 and 28 when Jesus returned to the temple on the day following His purification of the temple when He threw out those who bought and sold the chief priests, and the scribe, and the elders ask him, by what authority his is doing these things.
 - Luke 20:1-2—remember that not only has Jesus thrown the money changers out of the temple but his is also teaching daily in the temple.
 - Matthew 21:14-17—Christ was also healing in the temple.
 - Therefore I view the religious establishments question regarding who gave Christ the authority to do these things to encompass the totality his activities, i.e., teaching and healing in the temple as well as purging it of the money changes and those who bought and sold.
 - Mark 11:29-30—Jesus responds by saying, “I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.” In other words, if you will answer my question I will answer yours. The question Christ ask them is quite simple and brilliant, “The baptism of John, was *it* from heaven, or of men?”
 - Luke 20:3-4—Christ’s question puts the religious leadership of Israel between a rock and a hard place.

- Mark 11:31-32—as they reason amongst themselves they realize if they say John’s baptism was from heaven, Christ will ask them why they did not believe. However, if they say it originated with man they feared the people who counted John as a prophet.
 - Luke 20:5-6—after putting their heads together and analyzing the question, they realized they would lose regardless of how they answered.
- Mark 11:33—after weighing their options they tell Christ that they cannot tell where John’s baptism was from heaven or man. Jesus responds by telling them that he will not answer their question either.
- The inability of the chief priests to answer the Lord’s question exposed their hypocrisy and hatred, for they were bound to receive Jesus as the Messiah if they admitted that John was Christ’s predicted forerunner. This exchange also highlights the art of asking the right question. Instead of getting involved in arguments the use of the right question will often clinch the truth and stop the mouth of the opposition.

Mark 12:1-12

- **1) And he began to speak unto them by parables. A [certain] man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about [it], and digged [a place for] the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.**
- 2) And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.**
- 3) And they caught [him], and beat him, and sent [him] away empty.**
- 4) And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded [him] in the head, and sent [him] away shamefully handled.**
- 5) And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.**
- 6) Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.**
- 7) But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.**
- 8) And they took him, and killed [him], and cast [him] out of the vineyard.**
- 9) What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.**
- 10) And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:**
- 11) This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?**
- 12) And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.**

- Mark 12:1—after Christ exposes the hypocrisy of the chief priests and scribes he immediately begins teaching in parables. It is important to remember why Christ taught using parables.
 - Matthew 13:10-17—Jesus taught in parables so only a certain people would understand. In the context of Mark 12, Christ is clearly begins to teaching in parables so that dishonest and hypocritical Pharisees would not understand his teaching.
- In the parable the vineyard is Israel. Please recall two weeks ago that we looked at the four tears that are symbolic of the nation of Israel in Scripture, one of them was the vine. So the householder plants a vineyard, equips the vineyard with everything it needs to function properly (hedge, winepress, tower) and then let it out and placed it into the hands husbandman (a tiller of the soil, or vine dresser) before going into a far country. This is similar to someone sub letting an apartment in our day. They are entrusting care of the apartment to someone else in their stead.
- So whose job is it to care for the vineyard, i.e., the nation of Israel? The husbandmen. Who do you suppose the husbandmen represent? The chief priests and scribes or religious leadership of Israel.
- Mark 12:2-5—in the process of time the man who planted the vineyard and entrusted it to husbandmen sends wave after wave of servant seeking the fruit of the vineyard. Each time the servants and shamefully handled, beaten, and even killed.
 - Matthew 21:34-36
- Mark 12:6-8—after wave after wave of servants is ineffective in harvesting the fruit of the vineyard the householder sends his one wellbeloved son saying, “they will reverence my.” The husbandmen knowing that the householder’s son is the rightful heir of the vineyard kill him, cast him out of the vineyard, and attempt to seize his inheritance.
 - Matthew 21:37-39
- Who is one wellbeloved son? Jesus Christ
- What are the husbandmen in the process of doing while Christ is speaking the parable? Plotting his Death.
- Mark 12:9—when the Lord of the vineyard comes he will destroy the husbandman and give it others who will bring forth the proper fruit.
 - Matthew 21:40-4
 - Luke 20:16—when the chief priests head the parable thy responded by saying there is no way that is going to happen.

- Mark 12:10-11—Christ responds by quoting Psalm 118:22-23. The husbandmen/religious leadership are in the process of rejecting Christ/the stone. However, the very stone the builders reject is going to become the head or the corner or the most important stone in the building.

- Matthew 21:43-44—tells us that the kingdom of God will be taken from the unfaithful husbandmen and given to a nation bring forth the fruits thereof. Please notice that the word nation is singular and not plural. Jesus is not saying that the kingdom is going to be taken from Israel and given to the church or the gentiles. The kingdom is going to be taken from apostate Israel and given to the Little Flock.
 - Luke 12:31-32—the kingdom will be taken from the original husbandmen and given to the Little Flock or believing remnant that will bring forth the fruit of the vineyard.

- Mark 12:12—the chief priests and scribes knew that Christ had spoken about them and sought to lay hold on him and kill him for it.
 - Matthew 21:45-46