



Unit .26

Session .02

Jesus Is Questioned

Scripture



Mark 12:19-37

19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that **if a man’s brother dies**, leaving a wife behind but **no child, that man should take the wife and raise up offspring for his brother.** **20** There were seven brothers. The first married a woman, and dying, left no offspring. **21** The second also took her, and he died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. **22** None of the seven left offspring. Last of all, the woman died too. **23** In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be, since the seven had married her?” **24** Jesus spoke to them, “Isn’t this the reason why you’re mistaken: you don’t know the Scriptures or the power of God? **25** For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. **26** And as for the dead being raised—haven’t you read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God said to him: **I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?** **27** He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken.” **28** One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which command is the most important of all?” **29** Jesus answered, “The most

important is **Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** **30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.** **31** The second is, **Love your neighbor as yourself.** There is no other command greater than these.” **32** Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. **33** And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.” **34** When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question him any longer. **35** While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he asked, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? **36** David himself says by the Holy Spirit: **The Lord declared to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’** **37** David himself calls him ‘Lord’; how then can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

Have you ever seen someone ask a deceitful or unfair question? What did that look like?

Why is it always a good thing to begin our answer to something by starting first with Scripture?



99 Essential Doctrines

Authority of Scripture

Since the Bible is the inspired Word from God, God's special revelation to humanity, the Bible is the ultimate standard of authority for the Christian. Because it is truthful in everything that it teaches, Scripture is humanity's source for wisdom, instructing us on how to live life well to the glory of God. Submitting to the authority of Scripture means that we are to believe and obey God by believing and obeying His Word.

Main Point

Jesus models what it means to live under the authority of God's Word.

What are some Old Testament commands you would identify as most important?

Why was this a perfect response on the part of Jesus? How are the two commandments connected?

Christ Connection

The religious leaders questioned Jesus to trap Him in His words, but each time, Jesus answered them from the authority of God's Word, and they could not respond. Jesus is the Word of God who came to reveal God perfectly to us. He has all authority in heaven and on earth.

What does it look like for you to declare Jesus as Lord in your everyday life?

In Defense



Jesus' words in verse 25 do not teach that deceased loved ones become guardian angels, as people often say to comfort those who are grieving. Rather, Jesus referenced the angels to emphasize that marriage won't apply in the afterlife, just as it doesn't for the angels now.



Head

How does this session challenge our thinking about Scripture?

What are some ways you can give more priority to God's Word in your life?



Heart

Why is it important to emphasize that our love for God and others first begins with God's love for us?

Why should our love for others flow out of our love for God?



Hands

What are some practical ways this session challenges us to live?

What are some ways we can love others around us?

Daily Devotions



Day 1

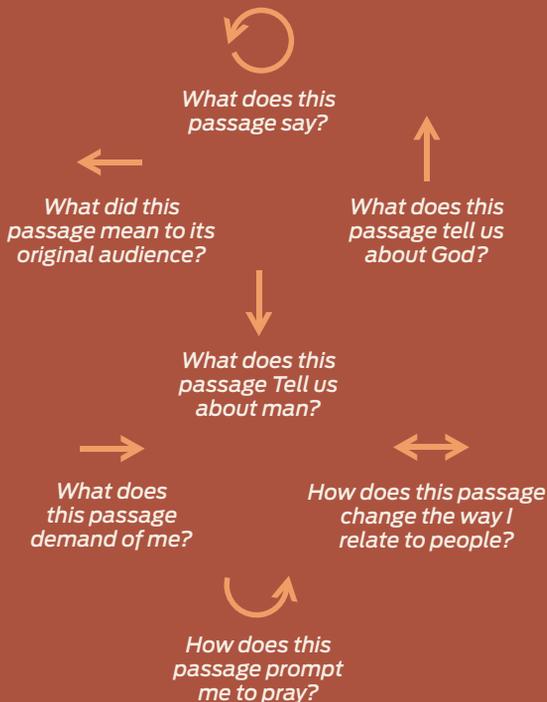
Mark 12:13-17

For the Pharisees and the Herodians, this was about much more than tax policy. Paying taxes to Rome was somewhat of an open sore for the Jews. After all, they were supposed to be God's free and redeemed people.

Their question to Jesus about the lawfulness of Jews paying a Roman tax was their vain attempt to get Him in trouble before the temple crowd. If he said yes, the Jews would reject Him as a Roman sympathizer. If He said no, they could turn Him in to the Romans as a rebel.

Jesus' response was brilliant. He refused to be crammed into a political box. Therefore, He answered with wisdom, emphasizing the priorities of life: Give Caesar his tax, but don't give him ultimate authority over your life; honor the law, but honor the Lord above the law.

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



How do you need to shift your priorities to honor the Lord above all?

Mark 12:18-27

The Sadducees tried a theological trap, but Jesus revealed that the topic of their misguided question—marriage in the resurrection—is something that will not continue to exist in the new heavens and new earth. Is Jesus minimizing the beauty of marriage? Far from it! We know from Ephesians 5 that Jesus Himself is the archetype for understanding the meaning of marriage. Instead, Jesus is expanding their categories of what heaven will be like.

In heaven, the relationships we have with the Lord and our fellow saints will mysteriously surpass any form of love we experience here on earth. This is the “power of God” that Jesus referred to. He invited the Sadducees to see that God’s wisdom and power are so much greater than we could imagine, and the glories that will be revealed on the other side of eternity will be more magnificent than we could ever dare hope.

Why is it important that we listen to the Scriptures for our understanding of what heaven will be like?

Mark 12:28-34

Jesus cited what the Jews call the Shema from Deuteronomy 6. “Shema” is the Hebrew word for “listen” or “hear.” This passage is one of the most well known passages of all the Old Testament Scriptures. At the time the Shema was written, there were many false gods and religions competing for the belief of the people. In the middle of all this religious confusion, the Lord revealed through the prophet Moses who He really is: “The Lord is one.” In other words, He is different, unique, and set apart in His nature and character. He is all-sufficient and all-powerful. He is the one true God.

We should consider it a great gift that God would be kind enough to reveal Himself to us and tell us something about how to relate to Him and to others.

What distractions surround you as you go throughout your day? How will you listen to and obey the one true God in the midst of those distractions?

Mark 12:35-37

With a knowledge of the Old Testament prophets, Jesus' listeners understood there was a Messiah who would come one day to make everything right again in Israel, and this Messiah would be a descendant of David.

Jesus quoted from Psalm 110 to challenge their assumptions about this Messiah. The popular belief was that the Messiah would be merely a human descendant of King David. If that were so, Jesus asked, then why did David call the Messiah his "Lord"? The only way to make sense of Psalm 110 is if the Messiah was not just a man but also God. Jesus revealed that according to this familiar psalm, the Messiah would be God's Son coming through David's lineage.

Jesus invited His listeners to abandon what they thought or assumed He should be like and to see Him for who He really is according to the Scriptures.

What are some ways you will show honor to Jesus as your Lord?

Mark 12:38-40

In these three verses, Jesus gave a scathing rebuke to those with hypocritical devotion—they appear to be devoted to God on the outside but are actually far from Him on the inside.

Jesus provided five marks of hypocritical devotion:

1. Focuses on the external over the internal
2. Is driven by the applause of others
3. Craves positions of power and privilege
4. Abuses power for personal gain at the expense of others
5. Has outward religion that doesn't match inward reality

We tend to think of others as hypocrites but not ourselves. We must resist this, because we are all prone to hypocrisy to some degree. No one on this side of the resurrection reads the Bible and decides to be a self-righteous Pharisee on purpose, but we all easily drift in that direction if we take our eyes off of Jesus.

Which of the marks of hypocritical devotion do you struggle with, and how will you fight to resist that drift?