

Chapter 12

¹Jesus began to speak to them in parables.

“A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it. He dug a pit for a wine press and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and moved to a distant country.”

²“In time he sent a slave to the tenant farmers to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³But they seized him, beat him, and sent him back with nothing. ⁴Again, he sent another slave to them. This one they beat on the head and treated shamefully” ⁵And he sent another. That one they killed. Many others were sent - they beat some and killed others. ⁶He had one more he could send – his beloved son. Lastly, he sent him to them, thinking, ‘They will respect him.’”

⁷“But those tenant farmers said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him. Then the inheritance will be ours!’ ⁸So they seized him, killed him, and threw his body outside the vineyard.”

⁹“What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Haven’t you read this scripture?

*A stone that the builders rejected,
This became the capstone;*

*¹¹The Lord did this,
And it is marvelous in our eyes.”*

¹²So, they wanted to seize him but were afraid of the crowd, for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them. Instead, they left him and went away.

¹³Then they sent some pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to trap him with his own words.

¹⁴Coming to him they said, “Teacher, we know that you are honest and are not swayed by the opinions of others. For you are impartial and teach the way of God in keeping with the truth. Is it lawful to pay the tribute tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay it or not?”

¹⁵However, because he knew their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius so that I can see it.”

¹⁶So, they brought one and he asked them, “Whose image and inscription are these?”

They answered him, “Caesar’s.”

¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” And they were amazed at him.

¹⁸Then Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus to question him. They said, ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if someone’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no child, his brother should take the wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰Now there were seven brothers. The first one got married but died leaving no offspring. ²¹Then the second one married her but died without leaving offspring. The same thing happened with the third brother. ²²None of the seven left offspring. Last of all the woman also died. ²³In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as a wife.”

²⁴Jesus answered them, “Aren’t you mistaken because you don’t know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead they will not marry or be given in marriage but will be like the angels in heaven. ²⁶Concerning the fact that the dead are raised, you have certainly read in the scroll of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are certainly wrong.”

²⁸One of the scribes approached and heard them disputing. When he saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which is the most important commandment?”

²⁹Jesus replied, “This is the most important - Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰And love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your entire mind, and with all your strength. ³¹This is the second - Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

³²The scribe replied to him, “Well said, teacher. You are correct in saying that God is one and there is no other except Him. ³³To love Him with all your heart, and with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw that the man answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”

No one dared to question Jesus further.

³⁵As Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, “What do the scribes mean when they say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶David himself said by the Holy Spirit,

*‘The LORD said to my Lord,
Sit by My right hand,
Until I put your enemies under your feet.’*

³⁷Since David himself calls him ‘lord’, how can he be his son?”

The great crowd enjoyed listening to him.

³⁸He also said this as he taught, “Take note of the scribes who walk around in long robes,

desire to be greeted in the market, ³⁹and desire the front seats in the synagogues and places of honor at feasts. ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and pray long prayers for show. These will receive a more severe judgment."

⁴¹Then he sat opposite the treasury and watched how the crowd put coins into the offering box. Many wealthy people put in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³Calling his disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴For they all gave a part of their abundance, but this woman gave all she had from her poverty, everything she had to live on."