

New Life Church Morning Worship
February 8, A.D. 2015
Mark 12:13-17 — The Living Sword, Part Two
(*Cf. Matthew 22:15-22; Luke 20:20-26*)

This sermon deals with the second of seven distinct events recorded in Mark 12. These events were occasioned by the angry determination on the part of Christ's enemies to bring Him down. They were enraged after He boldly cleared the temple, Mark 11:12-26, in which passage we also have the cursing of the barren fig tree: Jesus demonstrating to His disciples that their generation was as spiritually fruitless as that fig tree, and hence near to being cursed.

In the previous message, we saw how Jesus "switched metaphors" from fig tree to vineyard, telling a parable against His enemies. In the parable, they are represented by the thieving, violent, and murderous tenants of a vineyard owner. Understanding His deliberate implication, they "sought to lay hands on Him" (Mark 12:12), but chickened out. The battle continues...

I. Mark 12:1-12, The vineyard owner and his tenants - *refer to message of February 1*

II. Verses 13-17, An entrapment question about taxation - *today's message*

III. Verses 18-27, Another entrapment question about the resurrection

IV. Verses 28-34, A question from a "Berean" scribe

vs. 34, "...after that no one dared question Him." He now goes on offense!

V. Verses 35-37, Jesus grills them about the Son of David

VI. Verses 38-40, Jesus rebukes the scribes' hypocrisy

VII. Verses 41-44, Jesus commends the sacrificial giving of the widow

A. An Evil Motive, Flattery, and a Question

1. Who were the Herodians?

2. The answer was already given!

B. Responding to their Question with a Question, "Why?"

1. A **denarius** was a Roman silver coin and the ordinary day's wage of a soldier or laborer. The word is translated "penny" in the King James Bible.

C. Responding to their Question with a Second Question, "Who?"

1. Answer: give to man his image of himself

2. Answer: give to God His image of Himself

Conclusion: Sharing in Their Marvelling