

the gospel of
MIARK

**“You are not *far* from the
Kingdom of God”**

Mark 12:18-34; Matt. 13:44-46

- Jesus has been undermining insufficient means of producing true intimacy with God (*“I’m saved b/c...”*)
 - (1) Family lineage and connection
 - *“I’m saved b/c my family are Israelites”*
 - (2) The Temple ceremonies
 - *“I’m saved b/c of my church attendance”*
 - (3) The Sanhedrin
 - *“I’m saved b/c of my religious position & service”*

- Jesus has been undermining insufficient means of producing true intimacy with God

(4) The Pharisees

- “I’m saved b/c I follow all the religious rules”

(5) The Herodians

- “I’m saved b/c of how fine, viable and significant my family is”

Mark 12:18-23

The Sadducees' Challenge

1. Context of their Question:

- (a) Aristocratic Jewish families concerned with maintaining their privilege and position
- (b) Only subscribed to first 5 books of OT (Pentateuch)
- (c) Did not believe in resurrection (death was extinction)

Acts 23:8

Mark 12:18-23

The Sadducees' Challenge

2. Nature of their Question:

(a) Snarky/Smug

-Most likely scolded audience in 11:17

(b) Intended to reveal 'idiocy' of resurrection theology

-Deut. 25:5, Levirate Marriage as basis to expose inconsistency/illogic of idea of life after death

Mark 12:24-27 Jesus' Response

1. Their *Biblical Illiteracy* has led to catastrophic Error!

(a) Jesus hits them in their pride of thinking Scriptural knowledge is unnecessary/secondary

(b) He further asserts it is their most significant deficit
- They have drawn horribly misguided conclusions about the nature of God and eternity!

Mark 12:24-27 Jesus' Response

2. They have failed to understand the Power of God

(a) Ex. 3:6 asserts God is the God OF ... (active, ongoing)

-God is not the God of things that no longer exist!

(b) God REGULARLY brings life from death!

-Creation; Joseph; Slavery in Egypt; Desert provision; Nazareth; widow's son; Lazarus

Mark 12:28-29 The Teacher of the Law

1. Context of his question

(a) 613 points of OT Law

-Often debated about which were more/less important

-Produced a (false) piety based on human achievement

Mark 12:29-34 Jesus' Response

1. Asked for ONE commandment, He gives TWO

(a) Fuses Deut. 6:4 and Lev. 19:18

(b) Love for God and Love for man cannot be separated!

-Intellectual learning and accumulation of

knowledge is only ½ of what it means to know God!

1 Jo. 4:21; Luke 10:25-37

Mark 12:29-34 Jesus' Response

2. Tells the teacher he is “*near*”, “*close*” or “*not far*” ...

(a) What was this guy missing??

- He was wise: (thought deeply about spiritual things)
- He was humble: (recognized he may be wrong)
- He was courageous: (went against his peers)
- He was honest: (in his self appraisal)

Mark 12:29-34 Jesus' Response

2. Tells the teacher he is “*near*”, “*close*” or “*not far*” ...

(b) Nothing he can manufacture on his own!

-A spiritual connection only God can initiate and carry out.

-*So how does he get it? How do we??*

Matt. 7:7-12; Matt. 13:44-46

(1) In what ways do I subscribe to false religious beliefs or behaviors that ultimately produce an insufficient intimacy w/Him?

(2) Do I over-emphasize Knowledge, Teaching, & Academics over God's spiritual Power, or vice versa?

(3) What would it look like for me to “sell all you have” to “ask, seek and knock” of the Lord?