**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 12:1-34*

*God Wants Us to Understand Scripture*

June 24th, In the Year of Our Lord 2018

There are seven sections in Mark 12, all of which contain the elements of the religious leaders plotting to trap Jesus into a violation of their theocracy or Jesus exposing the religious leaders.

The Vine Grower

Caesar’s Tax

Marriage in the Resurrection

Foremost Commandment

David Calls Jesus Lord

Beware of the Scribes

The Poor Widow

Jesus teaches the people at the Temple. No doubt, His immediate audience was His close disciples and followers, but also the religious leaders who were constantly listening to Him in order to accuse Him of false teachings. We must not lose site of the fact that Jesus has come back to the Temple in Jerusalem, the most sacred site and headquarters for the Jewish leadership whom He was constantly exposing. Jesus had come back to the Temple after throwing out the money-changers and the animals claiming His house is a house of prayer. 17 And He *began* to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations '? But you have made it a robbers' den" (Mark. 11:17).

After the day of cleansing the Temple, Jesus comes back. The same audience was there.

27 And they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, and scribes, and elders came to Him,

 28 and *began* saying to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?" (Mark 11:27-28)

In review, after the Temple leadership asks Jesus by what authority He is using, Jesus questions the Temple leaders about the baptism of John being from heaven or from men. They were afraid to answer that John’s baptism was from heaven, because Jesus had been baptized by John and their agreeing would have legitimized Jesus’ standing. If they rejected the baptism of John then they would have lost standing with the populace who regarded John as being from heaven. So, they said that they did not know. Therefore, Jesus did not tell them from where His authority came.

Jesus stays there in the Temple with the people, disciples and the religious leaders, all of whom were listening to Him. This is God in His own house of prayer teaching His message without any filters or cost. No one was called to declare an oath to Him or anyone else. The Gospel is free, and Jesus delivers.

So, the religious leaders are hanging onto Jesus’ every word, and the common person is seeing who has the real authority. Jesus then tells them a story, a parable. This parable cannot be misunderstood. Jesus’ account clearly identifies Him as the son of the man who planted a vineyard. Israel is compared to a vineyard many times in the Old Testament.

**Mark 12:1-12 1** And He began to speak to them in parables: "A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.

 2 "At the *harvest* time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive *some* of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.

 3 "They took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

 4 "Again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully.

 5 "And he sent another, and that one they killed; and *so, with* many others, beating some and killing others.

 6 "He had one more *to send*, a beloved son; he sent him last *of all* to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

 7 "But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!'

 8 "They took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

 9 "What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers and will give the vineyard to others.

 10 "Have you not even read this Scripture: 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*;

 11 THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES '?"

 12 And they were seeking to seize Him, and *yet* they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And *so,* they left Him and went away.

Jesus is accusing the Temple leadership in their own headquarters of being of the same mind and heart of those who killed God’s prophets in the past. Here are some examples of what Jesus is referencing ~~to~~.

**Zechariah - 2 Chronicles 24:20-22**

 20 Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus God has said, 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you.'"

 21 So they conspired against him and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. 22 Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which his father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as he died he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

**Scoffed at God’s Prophets - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16** 14 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the LORD which He had sanctified in Jerusalem. 15 And the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; 16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

**Killed Prophets noted in Nehemiah - Nehemiah. 9:26**

26 "But they became disobedient and rebelled against Thee, and cast Thy law behind their backs And killed Thy prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to Thee, And they committed great blasphemies

**Killed God’s Prophets – 1 Kings 19:9-10**

9 Then he came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Ki. 19:9 NAS)

**10** And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

**AMOS** (was) from the land of Tekoa. Jewish writing reveals that the priest of Bethel tortured him and afterwards slew him. Others say that it was he whom Ahaziah the son of Amaziah[8](http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/bb/bb32.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22page_69_note_8) killed with a staff, and he died.

**Jezebel kills God’s Prophets**

**1 Kings 18:4** for it came about, when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and provided them with bread and water.)

**Isaiah sawed in half**

Talmud Manasseh ordered Isaiah sawed in half for saying

"I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips"

It is interesting to note that Jesus has just questioned the religious leaders about the baptism of John the Baptist. John is considered the last of the Old Testament Prophets. John the Baptist was beheaded for speaking against government officials and taking the wife of a relative to be his own wife. Jesus then tells the parable of the Vine Growing. The servants of the vine grower are the same as Old Testament prophets who were both killed.

**Mark 12:1** **VINE GROWER’S SERVANTS & SON KILLED**

**Likened to Old Testament Prophets and Jesus as Son of God. Matthew 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey.**

1 And He began to speak to them in parables:

"A man planted a vineyard, and put a wall around it, and dug a vat under the wine press, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.

2 "And at the *harvest* time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive *some* of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.3 "And they took him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

4 "And again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully.

 5 "And he sent another, and that one they killed; and *so with* many others, beating some, and killing others.

 6 "He had one more *to send*, a beloved son;

 he sent him last *of all* to them, saying,

 'They will respect my son.'

 7 "But those vine-growers said to one another,

 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him,

 and the inheritance will be ours!'

 8 "And they took him, and killed him,

 and threw him out of the vineyard.

 9 "What will the owner of the vineyard do?

 He will come and destroy the vine-growers,

 and will give the vineyard to others.

 10 "Have you not even read this Scripture:

 'The stone which the builders rejected, Psalm 118:22

 This became the chief corner *stone*; Psalm 118:22

 **Isaiah 28:16** Whom their fathers murdered, Manasseh king of Judah. Manasseh was a king of the Kingdom of Judah. He was the only son of Hezekiah and his wife Hephzibah. He became king at the age of 12 and reigned for 55 years.

[**Born**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=manasseh+born&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEopScvVEstOttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWSflFeQBJT_nIJQAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQ6BMIlwIoADAZ)**:**709 BC, [Jerusalem, Israel](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=Jerusalem&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEopSctV4gAxTYwN4rXEspOt9AtS8wtyUoFUUXF-nlVSflEeAI6zLjUvAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQmxMImAIoATAZ)

[**Died**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=manasseh+died&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEopScvVks9OttIvSM0vyEnVT0lNTk0sTk2JL0gtKs7Ps0rJTE0BAHvNlKEuAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQ6BMImwIoADAa)**:**643 BC, [Jerusalem, Israel](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=Jerusalem&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEopSctV4gAxTYwN4rXks5Ot9AtS8wtyUvVTUpNTE4tTU-ILUouK8_OsUjJTUwDzlZ4SOAAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQmxMInAIoATAa)

[**Full name**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=manasseh+full+name&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEopScvVks5OttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWaaU5OQp5ibmpAL_FVZcqAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQ6BMInwIoADAb)**:**Menasheh ben Hizqiyah

[**Reign**](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US751&q=manasseh+reign&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_Zm6v-rbAhULlawKHZwKClAQ6BMIogIoADAc)**:**sole reign; 687–643 BC

**Psalm 18:1-2 1** *For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said* , "I Love Thee, O LORD, my strength."

 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

**Psalm of David 118:22** The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.

 **Some count Psalm 118 as the center chapter in the Bible.**

 The ‘KJV only’ people count verses (31,102) and place the center at Psalm 103:1-2. Also, the ‘KJV only’ crowd says that there is an even number of verses in the Bible so there cannot be a middle verse. Hurray for the ‘KJV only’ groupies. However, the shortest chapter in the Bible is chapter 117 and the longest is 119. That leaves 118 in the middle. Reckoning through the New American Standard Bible.

The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118.

**•** If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.

**•** 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible. Should the central verse not have an important message?

 "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

You have now entered the twilight-zone of Bible mania.

Another point of trivia is Psalm 46. William Shakespeare was born in April of 1564. Records note that the infant William was baptized on April 26, 1564. The KJV was printed in 1611 with no verifiable date of first printing. 1564 plus 46 is 1610. So, William was considered 46 for four months of 1611. In the KJV in Psalm 46, if you count 46 words from the beginning of the Psalm, you will find the word “shake.” If you count 46 words from the end of the Psalm you find the word “spear.” Of course, William spells his last name “Shakespeare.” However, close enough for the twilight-zone KJV mystics to claim that this printing phenomenon is to celebrate William’s 46th birthday.

Of course, the NASB board changed the word “shake “to “quake” just to throw the KJV folks off the hunt. Wow.

**Acts 4:11** "He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very corner stone.

**Ephesians 2:20** having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

**Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

**Mark 12 continued . . .**

 11 This came about from the Lord,

 And it is marvelous in our eyes '?"

 The teaching we receive from Jesus telling the parable of the Vine Grower is that fallen man does not want any competition for being his own god and is willing to kill to be on top.

**PLOTTING TO TRAP JESUS**

Mark 12:12 And they were seeking to seize Him; and *yet* they feared the multitude; for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And *so,* they left Him, and went away.

Compare to Luke’s text shedding light into the minds and hearts of the Jewish religious leaders.

**Luke 20:19-20** 19 And the scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on Him that very hour, and they feared the people; for they understood that He spoke this parable against them.

 20 And they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so as to deliver Him up to the rule and the authority of the governor.

Mark 12:13 And they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him, in order to trap Him in a statement.

**CAESAR’S TAX**

Mark 12:14 And they came and said to Him,

"Teacher, we know that You are truthful, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?

 15 "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"

But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them,

"Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at."

 16 And they brought *one*. And He said to them,

"Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

And they said to Him, "Caesar's."

 17 And Jesus said to them,

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

 And they were amazed at Him.

 **This account teaches us that God’s kingdom is not of this world. Jesus claims this when questioned by Pilate in John 18:36.**

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

**MARRIAGE IN THE RESURRECTION**

Mark 12:18 And *some* Sadducees

 (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Him,

and *began* questioning Him, saying,

 19 "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, and leaves behind a wife, and leaves no child, his brother should take the wife, and raise up offspring to his brother.

 20 "There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died, leaving no offspring.

 21 "And the second one took her, and died, leaving behind no offspring; and the third likewise;

 22 and *so* all seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also.

 23 "In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife."

 24 Jesus said to them,

"Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand 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 "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book 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 '?

 27 "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."

The Sadducees were a small minority in Jesus’ day whom controlled the Temple and its commerce. The High Priest came from this group. By throwing out the money-changers, Jesus disrupted their cash flow. They were looking to do away with Him. They only held a religious obligation to the Pentateuch (first five books Old Testament - Torah). They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. So, when Jesus heard the question about the resurrection from them, it was obvious that they were not sincere. Jesus nails them to their evil hearts. Jesus gives them the reason that they are mistaken. He tells them that they do not understand Scripture or the Power of God. Paul declares in Romans 1:16-17 16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, they just shall live by faith* (KJV). The Sadducees did not understand that The Word (The Gospel) of God is the power of salvation. They used it to rule over people’s lives and to make themselves wealthy.

Jesus tells them that God is not the God of the dead after listing Abraham, Isaac and Jacob indicating that these three live. Jesus did not say that God “was” the God of these three but that He “is” their God indicating that they live. They have been resurrected to a new life. We see God’s prophet Samuel alive when Saul calls him from hades

(1 Samuel 28).

**Understanding Scripture and the Foremost Commandment**

**Mark 12 Continued - FOREMOST COMMANDMENT**

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;

 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

 31 "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

 32 And the scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher, You have truly stated that He is One; and there is no one else besides Him;

 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

 34 And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

 Understanding Scripture is a great gift from God. Some people in the world do not have God’s written Word. God communicates to them in other ways through the creation (Romans 1:18ff). However, those of us who have God’s Word are blessed. God works through us. The Gospel of the Lord begins in Genesis 1:1. The next section of verses in Mark 12 highlights the overall understanding of God’s revelation to us.

Some may say, “Where is the Gospel in the TORAH?” Remember, the Sadducees only held to the TORAH, the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Where is the Gospel in these books? Is there a connection to them and the New Testament, especially the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)?

 God declares that He desires to circumcise our hearts in Deuteronomy 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. (KJV).

It is my view that “circumcision of the heart” is the same as being reborn of spirit, because the outcome of both is to have the ability to follow God’s commandments.

Deuteronomy 30:6-8

6 "Moreover the LORD your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

 7 "The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

 8 "**And you shall again obey the LORD and observe all His commandments which I command you today.**

From this we see that a changed heart gives us the ability to follow God’s commands and do the things God calls us to do. Nicodemus wonders how Jesus can do the things He does in John 3. Jesus tells him that he must be reborn of Spirit. These verses highlight that circumcision of the heart and rebirth of Spirit are one and the same thing. There are many more Scriptures that revel this same truth. Here is one example. Acts 2:27 says that their hearts were cut.

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

Because their hearts were cut (circumcised, which meant they had surrendered to the Lord) then they were given the ability to repent and witness their transformation in water baptism. Now that they had surrendered to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

**Other examples in the New Testament Gospels:**

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 11:29-30 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 13:13-15 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; 15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

Matthew 15:8-9) 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'"

Paul 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. (Rom. 2:29 NAU)

Stephen 51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did (Acts 7:51 NAU)

**Deut 10:16** "Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus receives this same question from the religious lawyer when the lawyer asks how he can inherit eternal life.

**Lawyer WITNESS (Luke 10:25-28)**

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

 26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

 27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE."

Eternal Life is linked to the two greatest commandments when another lawyer asked Jesus, “What is the great commandment in the Law?” in the Gospel of Matthew.

**Matthew 22:35-40**

35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him,

 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

 37 And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

**Love passages in the Old Testament linked to salvation. Those who are saved love the Lord.**

**Exodus 20:6** but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

**Deuteronomy 6:5** "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Deuteronomy 30:16** in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

**Deuteronomy 30:20** by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

**Paul, the “Pharisee of Pharisees,” proclaims:**

**Romans 2:29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

**Jeremiah 4:4** "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My wrath go forth like fire And burn with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds."

**Ezekiel 11:19** "And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

**Ezekiel 36:26** "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**27** "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

 AMEN ….. end for June 24, 2018

**The Remainder of Mark 12 ~ DAVID CALLS JESUS LORD**

 35 And Jesus answering *began* to say,

 as He taught in the temple,

 "How *is it that* the scribes say

that the Christ is the son of David?

 36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit,

 'The Lord said to my LORD,

"Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.'"

 37 "David himself calls Him 'Lord';

 and *so,* in what sense is He his son?"

And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

**BEWARE OF SCRIBES**

 38 And in His teaching, He was saying:

 "Beware of the scribes

who like to walk around in long robes,

and *like* respectful greetings in the market places,

39 and chief seats in the synagogues,

and places of honor at banquets,

 40 **who devour widows'** houses,

 and for appearance's sake offer long prayers;

these will receive greater condemnation."

**THE POOR WIDOW**

 41 And He sat down opposite the treasury and *began* observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury;

and many rich people were putting in large sums.

 42 And a **poor widow** came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.

 43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them,

"Truly I say to you, **this poor widow** put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;

44 for they all put in out of their surplus,

but she, out of her poverty,

put in all she owned,

all she had to live on."