



Pointers and questions on the Gospel of

MARK

Session 8

12:1 - 13:37

Summary

- 12:1-12** The Parable of the Tenants.
12:13-40 Jesus discusses various issues with the religious leaders and with his disciples.
12:41-44 The poor widow's offering.
13:1-37 The imminent judgment on Jerusalem, and the end of the world.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Read the Parable of the Tenants (12:1-12). The Jewish religious leaders clearly knew what it signified (v12). What do *you* think Jesus was getting at?
2. In the light of this parable, how should we view well-known Christian 'prophets' today who have big media people working on making them more popular?
3. Read 12:13-17. Christians have traditionally taken v17 as grounds for the separation of church and state.¹ Is that a fair deduction from it?
4. In the light of 12:18-27, talk about why there will be no marriage in the age to come.
5. Can you explain what Jesus was driving at in 12:26-27?
6. What in practice do you think it means to 'love the Lord your God 'with all your *heart* and with all your *soul* and with all your *mind* and with all your *strength*' (12:30)? Do *you* love God that way?
7. Read 12:35-37. 'The large crowd listened to him with delight' (v37)—but probably not with much understanding at this stage. Can you figure out the point that Jesus was subtly making about himself?
8. Talk about the attitudes and actions that Jesus condemned in 12:38-40. What would be the equivalents today? Are there any remnants of such attitudes and actions in your own life? In what way was the poor widow in 12:41-44 much closer to the values that God honours?
9. Read chapter 13. What indications can you find that many of the events prophesied by Jesus would take place within a short time? Do you know when they were in fact fulfilled?
10. The first 31 verses of chapter 13 answer the question of the disciples in v4, indicating both a time when the prophecies would be fulfilled and the signs of its approach. A noticeable change takes place from v32 to the end of the chapter. In what ways is this closing section different? Why do you think that is?
11. Pick out the *commands* that Jesus gives in 13:32-37. Are you obeying them?
12. What do you think Jesus means by 'sleeping' in v36? Are *you* nodding off?



¹ That is, not having any formal links between the government of a country and a particular denomination. In Britain, for example, that would mean the disestablishment of the Church of England—severing the links by which the reigning monarch is the head of the CofE and removing Anglican participation in state occasions like the opening of Parliament and coronations.