

The Question about Paying Taxes

13 Some Pharisees and some members of Herod's party were sent to Jesus to trap him with questions. **14** They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you tell the truth, without worrying about what people think. You pay no attention to anyone's status, but teach the truth about God's will for people. Tell us, is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor? Should we pay them or not?"

15 But Jesus saw through their trick and answered, "Why are you trying to trap me? Bring a silver coin, and let me see it."

16 They brought him one, and he asked, "Whose face and name are these?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

17 So Jesus said, "Well, then, pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay to God what belongs to God."

And they were amazed at Jesus.

The Question about Rising from Death

18 Then some Sadducees, who say that people will not rise from death, came to Jesus and said, **19** "Teacher, Moses wrote this law for us: 'If a man dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man's brother must marry the widow so that they can have children who will be considered the dead man's children.' **20** Once there were seven brothers; the oldest got married and died without having children. **21** Then the second one married the woman, and he also died without having children. The same thing happened to the third brother, **22** and then to the rest: all seven brothers married the woman

and died without having children. Last of all, the woman died. **23** Now, when all the dead rise to life on the day of resurrection, whose wife will she be? All seven of them had married her."

24 Jesus answered them, "How wrong you are! And do you know why? It is because you don't know the Scriptures or God's power. **25** For when the dead rise to life, they will be like the angels in heaven and will not marry. **26** Now, as for the dead being raised: haven't you ever read in the Book of Moses the passage about the burning bush? There it is written that God said to Moses, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' **27** He is the God of the living, not of the dead. You are completely wrong!"

The Great Commandment

28 A teacher of the Law was there who heard the discussion. He saw that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer, so he came to him with a question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

29 Jesus replied, "The most important one is this: 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **31** The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two."

32 The teacher of the Law said to Jesus, "Well done, Teacher! It is true, as you say, that only the Lord is God and that there is no other god but he. **33** And you must love God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; and you must

love your neighbor as you love yourself. It is more important to obey these two commandments than to offer on the altar animals and other sacrifices to God."

34 Jesus noticed how wise his answer was, and so he told him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God."

After this nobody dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

The Question about the Messiah

35 As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he asked the question, "How can the teachers of the Law say that the Messiah will be the descendant of David?"

36 The Holy Spirit inspired David to say:

'The Lord said to my Lord:
Sit here at my right side
until I put your enemies under
your feet.'

37 David himself called him 'Lord'; so how can the Messiah be David's descendant?"

Jesus Warns against the Teachers of the Law

A large crowd was listening to Jesus gladly. **38** As he taught them, he said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law, who like to walk around in their long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace, **39** who choose the reserved seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. **40** They take advantage of widows and rob them of their homes, and then make a show of saying long prayers. Their punishment will be all the worse!"

The Widow's Offering

41 As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they

dropped in their money. Many rich people dropped in a lot of money; **42** then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. **43** He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. **44** For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on."

Jesus Speaks of the Destruction of the Temple

13 ¹ As Jesus was leaving the Temple, one of his disciples said, "Look, Teacher! What wonderful stones and buildings!"

² Jesus answered, "You see these great buildings? Not a single stone here will be left in its place; every one of them will be thrown down."

Troubles and Persecutions

3 Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, across from the Temple, when Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him in private. **4** "Tell us when this will be," they said, "and tell us what will happen to show that the time has come for all these things to take place."

5 Jesus said to them, "Watch out, and don't let anyone fool you. **6** Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am he!' and they will fool many people. **7** And don't be troubled when you hear the noise of battles close by and news of battles far away. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. **8** Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be earthquakes everywhere, and there will be famines.



Love Is the Greatest Commandment

Mark 12

STORY



Mark 12:28-31 (For the full story, read Mark 12:28-34.)

28 A teacher of the Law . . . came to [Jesus] with a question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

29 Jesus replied, "The most important one is this: 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **31** The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two."



Understand It!

At the end of life, we are going to be judged. We will not be judged on how much money we made or how smart we became. It will not matter how famous or successful we were. Instead, Jesus will ask us, "How much did you love?" As we learn in this Bible story from Mark, the greatest thing we can do on earth is to love God with all our heart. The next greatest thing we can do is to love other people.

When we love, we are like God. Loving God and other people is so important that God made it a law. Ask God to fill your heart with love more and more. Ask him to help you grow in love for him. Ask him to help you grow in love for your family, your friends, your neighbors, and all people.

STORY
Mark 12

Live It!

As a Christian, you are called to follow Jesus' Commandments to love God and others. Cut out two paper hearts. Use red paper if you can. On one heart write a way that you want to love God more. On the other heart, write a way that you want to love others more. Put your hearts where you can see them every day.

Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

