



M A R K

The Gift of God





Mental Chess
~Continued~

Mark 12:18-44

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1. Hypocritical Hypothetical (18-27)
2. Inquisitive Intellectual (28-34)
3. Antithetical Tutorial (35-44)



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- Sunday: *Triumphal Entry / Palm Sunday*
- Monday: cleansing of the temple
- Tuesday: *Mental Chess*
 - Chief priests, scribes, elders (*Sanhedrin*)
 - Pharisees & Herodians
 - **New Challenger: The Sadducees**



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- Who are the Sadducees?
 - Party of the high priests
 - Not overly religious – used as a tool for power and profit (e.g. – temple, 11:15)
 - Political; upper-crust; *snooty/rude*
 - *Hellenized* & catering to Rome



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- What did the Sadducees believe?
 - No resurrection (18)
 - No supernatural (except God) (Acts 23:8)
 - Focused on the *Pentateuch*
 - Did not recognize oral law or traditions (as did the Pharisees)



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- Deut. 25:5-10 – *Levirate Marriage*
 - Continue family name and property
 - “When brothers live together” – their inheritance has not yet been divided? (e.g. – Luke 15:11-12)
 - Refusal brings shame / disgrace (*selfish?*)



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- *Straw Man*: a caricature of your opponent's argument that is easier to *knock down*
- Example: "Evolutionists believe we evolved from monkeys."
 - Disproving we evolved from monkeys does not disprove evolution



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- “You are mistaken” (*led astray, deceived*)
 - You do not understand the Scriptures
 - You do not understand the power of God
- *Straw Man*: Jesus believed in resurrection, but not in *marriage after resurrection* (25)
 - Without that, their argument crumbles



Hypocritical Hypothetical

- “have you not read...?” (26)
 - “in the book of Moses” (Pentateuch!)
 - “I *am* the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob”
 - God is the God of the living
 - They are living after death

Checkmate!

So What?




- Do I know the Scriptures?
 - 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 1 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:2-11
 - Do I think about what I'm reading?
- Do I know the power of God?
 - Example: Mark 5:35-43
- Am I projecting my thoughts on God?



Inquisitive Intellectual

- One of the scribes (28; Matt. 22:35)
- Because Jesus answered the Sadducees well
- “What commandment is the foremost of all?” (28; cf. Luke 10:25-29)
 - Two paths: *hairsplitting* or *summarizing*
 - He was thinking about it!




Inquisitive Intellectual

- Deut. 6:4-5; Lev. 19:18
 - Summed up in one word: **LOVE** (Rom. 13:9-10; 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8)
 - Covers the *10 Commandments*
 - Encompasses man's relationships
 - Demands the whole of man (8:34-38)

Inquisitive Intellectual



Deut. 6:5	HEART	SOUL	STRENGTH	
LXX	HEART	SOUL	STRENGTH	
Matt. 22:37	HEART	SOUL	MIND	
Luke 10:27	HEART	SOUL	STRENGTH	MIND
Mark 12:30	HEART	SOUL	MIND	STRENGTH
Mark 12:33	HEART	UNDERSTANDING	STRENGTH	



Inquisitive Intellectual

- Not *parts*, but the whole of man
- “Right” – *Good! Beautiful! Well done!* (32)
- Heart, understanding, strength (33)
 - Mark 4:12; 6:52; 7:14; 8:17, 21
- “much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices” (see 1 Sam. 15:22)



Inquisitive Intellectual

- When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently (*as possessing discernment*)
 - “The Teacher saw that the man had answered wisely, that is, as a person who *had a mind* and used it to good advantage.” (William Hendriksen)



Inquisitive Intellectual

- “You are not far from the kingdom of God”
 - A compliment and an appeal
 - *Not far, but not there yet*
 - He needed to recognize Jesus as Messiah and believe in Him (cf. Acts 16:31)



So What?

- Do I love God with all of me?
- Do I love others as much as/in the same way as I love myself?
- “Yeah, but we can’t do that *perfectly*”
 - Am I closer than I was before?
 - Sanctification is a process (2 Pet. 1:5-11)



Antithetical Tutorial

- After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions (34b)
- Now it's His turn (35)
 - Call all the scribes/Pharisees (Matt. 22:41) to think deeply about the Word of God and the Messiah

Antithetical Tutorial



- How is Christ the son of David?
 - Prevailing theory: *Son of David* -> *Messiah* -> *political savior* (see 11:10)
 - God promised a *physical descendent* of David would be King in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:8-17; Isa. 9:7; Jer. 23:5)



Antithetical Tutorial

- “David himself said in the Holy Spirit...”
(see 2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - Ps. 110:1 “*YHWH* said to my *Adonai*” (i.e. – the Messiah: vv. 4-7)
 - How can an *only-human* descendent of David also be David’s Lord?
 - Acts 2:22-36; Rom. 1:3-4; cf. Heb. 1:13



Antithetical Tutorial

- They recognized Ps. 110 as Messianic
- Dilemma (re: *Adonai*):
 - Horn 1: Messiah is God
 - Horn 2: Messiah is God and Man
- Yet they condemned Jesus for making these very claims! (e.g. - Mark 2:1-12)

Checkmate!



Antithetical Tutorial

- “Beware of the scribes” (38; Matt. 23:1-39)
 - *Beware: look away from, avoid* (see 8:15)
- “who” (*the ones*) – a certain type of scribe
 - Like to be seen and honored by men
- “who devour widows’ houses” – *con-men*
 - Pray hypocritically – fake super-piety



Antithetical Tutorial

- Breaktime: Jesus was people-watching (41)
- Treasury: 13 *Trumpets* – 7 for temple needs, 6 for *freewill* offerings
- Observing *how...* (manner, *in what way*)
 - Many rich put in *many coins*
 - 100 \$1 bills vs. 1 \$100 bill

Antithetical Tutorial



- A poor widow with 2 copper coins
 - 1/64 of a *denarius* (day's wage)
 - $\$7.25 \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \$58 \div 64 = \$0.91$
 - All she had to live on! (-> fasting)
 - The rich gave out of their *surplus*
 - Not the amount but the attitude! (43)

So What?



- Do I love God with *all* He has given me?
 - Wealth, faculties, health, citizenship, circumstances...
 - Deny self, take up cross, follow (8:34-38)

So What?



- Do I accurately handle the word of truth?
(2 Tim. 2:15)
 - Study it, know it, understanding it, memorize it, think/reflect on it, reason from it...
 - In order to live it out (James 1:22-25)