

Introduction

One of the shows that my family enjoyed watching was *Ninja Warrior*. They put a series of obstacles together into a grueling test of strength, co-ordination, and endurance. The series of obstacles thoroughly test the athletes, and if they mess up on a test they fall into a pool of water that is under all the obstacles. It is a timed event and the contestants must finish the course before the time runs out. At each qualifying event, they would take about twenty contestants. If more than twenty finished the course, they would take the fastest times. If less than twenty finished the course, they would take the ones that finished and the ones that got the furthest along on the course. One of our favorite contestants is Daniel Gil, and he is known as the Kingdom Ninja. He is the worship leader at the Dwelling Place Church in Houston, Texas. Daniel is one of two competitors to beat the Mega Wall two years in a row. He is officially one of four to ever make it past stage 3 in the history of American Ninja Warrior!

Jesus has been through all kinds of qualifying tests. He fasted for forty days in the wilderness where He was tested by Satan. Throughout His three years of ministry, He has been constantly tested by the religious leaders. He is now at the final stage, the final week of His ministry, and in our text today He is going to face three tests. These tests were designed to trap Jesus. The Greek word that is used for trap is *agreuo*, which means to catch or take by hunting. These traps are meant to cause Jesus to fall. Unfortunately, for the religious leaders, Jesus is the Chief Kingdom Ninja, and made it through all of their tests. At the end of the first test, designed by the Pharisees and Herodians, people were amazed at Jesus. At the end of the second test, designed by the Sadducees, one of the scribes recognized that Jesus had answered the Sadducees well. After the test designed by the scribe, Mark stated, “No one would venture to ask Him any more questions.” The Chief Kingdom Ninja had made it through all the obstacles that the religious leaders had designed. In Hebrews 4:15, we find that Jesus was “tempted in all things, yet without sin.” There was never a testing or trapping or other obstacle that caused Him to fall in the pool of sin below. He is the ultimate Chief Kingdom Ninja. After Jesus had finished all of these tests by these religious leaders, He stood on the podium and gave a question for the crowd to consider and He issued a warning about the scribes.

(Heb 4:15) “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.”

In our text today, we will look at: 1) the trap of the Pharisees and Herodians, and 2) the trap of the Sadducees. Next week, in Part 2, we will cover: 3) the trap of the Scribes, and 4) Jesus’ question and warning to the scribes.

Trappings and Testings – Part 1 (Mark 12:13-17)

1. The Trap of the Pharisees and Herodians (Mark 12:13-17) (Part 1)
2. The Trap of the Sadducees (Mark 12:18-27) (Part 1)
3. The Trap of the Scribe (Mark 12:28-34) (Part 2)
4. Jesus’ Question and Warning (Mark 12:35-40) (Part 2)

(Mark 12:13-17) “Then they *sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. {14} 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} 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."

(Mark 12:18-27) "Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) *came to Jesus, 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 MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER. {20} "There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. {21} "The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; {22} and *so* all seven left no children. 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 married her." {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."

1. The Trap of the Pharisees and Herodians (Mark 12:13-17)

Our text begins with, "Then **they** sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him." To find out who "they" is, we have to go all the way back to Mark 11:27. After Jesus had cleansed the temple, the chief priests, scribes and the elders came to Him and **they** questioned Him about what authority He had to be doing the things He was doing. These were the religious rulers who sent the Pharisees and Herodians to trap Jesus.

(Mark 12:13) "Then they *sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement."

(Mark 11:27) "They *came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders *came to Him,"

Chief Priests

In Exodus 28:41, God told Moses to anoint, ordain, and consecrate Aaron and his sons as priests. They were of the tribe of Levi, so they were Levites. All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests. The priests offered up sacrifices on behalf of themselves and the people. The Levites served God, and by taking care of the furnishings. The priests and Levites were not given an inheritance. Instead, they were compensated for their service out of the tithes and offerings. Only Aaron and his descendants served as priests.

(Ex 28:41) "You shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him; and you shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve Me as priests."

The chief priests were the leading priests from among the other priests. There was only one high priest, and he could enter the holy of holies one time a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yon

Kippur). The Sanhedrin Council was made up of seventy elders, Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests. The purpose of the Sanhedrin was to act as a tribunal in making decisions regarding the Law. The high priest would preside over the Sanhedrin Council meetings. In addition to the high priest, there were other chief priests that were part of the Sanhedrin Council.

Scribes

The Scribes were influential Jewish leaders. Some scholars say that the scribes began about the same time as Ezra, the prophet and priest. We find in Ezra 7:21 that he was also a scribe of the law of the God of heaven. The Hebrew word is *sepher* (Strong's H5613), which comes from *sepher* (Strong's H5612), which means a book, missive, or document. The root of these words is *saphar* (Strong's H5608), which means to score with a mark, inscribe, tally, or to tell.

(Ezra 7:21) "I, even I, King Artaxerxes, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are *in the provinces* beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, may require of you, it shall be done diligently,"

The scribes were considered experts in the Law. In Nehemiah 8, Ezra was brought before the assembly of people and he read from the book of the law. In verse eight, he also translated to give the sense so that they understood the reading. He was not merely a person that copied manuscripts, he was teaching the people to give them understanding.

(Neh 8:1-8) "And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel. {2} Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. {3} He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.... {8} They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading."

In the New Testament the Greek word is *grammateus* (Strong's G1122), and means a writer. The root word is *gramma* (Strong's G1121), and means that which is drawn or written, and it comes from *grapho* (Strong's G1125), which means to write. These were trained and skilled writers. They produced legal documents, recorded deeds, and also copied manuscripts. They were honored and held in high esteem. They were generally very educated and they were eligible to be elected to the Sanhedrin council.

Scribes followed meticulous guidelines and procedures for making copies of the law. The animal skins had to be clean and they used a special ink. They had to wash themselves and their writing instruments before writing the name of God. Their columns of text had to contain a minimum of forty-eight lines and could not exceed sixty-one lines. They went through a careful review and editing process and if three or more pages needed revisions the entire manuscript was tossed. They counted the numbers of letters and words on each page. The spacing of the letter was also critical, and if two letters touched each other, the text was discarded.

Pharisees

The Pharisees were a religious group of scribes that formed around 150 B.C. They were considered the highest religious authority and were very influential in the local synagogues. The Greek word is Pharisaïos (Strong's G5330), which comes from the Hebrew word parash (Strong's H6567), meaning “to separate or disperse.” They separated themselves, particularly from those that they considered sinners. Jesus’ association with the tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners was despicable in their eyes. The Pharisees held to a strict observance of the laws as interpreted by the Scribes, and the traditions of the elders. They also believed in miracles and the resurrection, something that distinguished them from the Sadducees, who did not believe in miracles or the resurrection.

Sadducees

The Sadducees were another group of religious leaders. They originated out of a priest named Zadok, and the root word was tsadeq, a Hebrew word which means righteousness. This group began about 167 BC and they ceased to exist after the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. The Sadducees held dearly to the law of Moses, the first five books of the Bible. They did not rely as much on the teachings of the elders like the Pharisees. They held to the written Torah, not the oral Torah. They were well respected and had great power. They did not believe in angels, miracles, or the resurrection. The Sanhedrin Council had seventy members, and it was made up of Sadducees, Pharisees, and priests.

Herodians

The Herodians were secularists and did not want anything to do with the Pharisees, Judaism, or Jesus. They were politically motivated, and supporters of Herod the Great. Because they supported Herod and Rome, the Herodians were not friends of most Jews, and particularly of the Pharisees. They were known for their sensuality and corrupt living, so the immoral lifestyle of Herod did not bother them a bit. In Mark 3, after Jesus had healed the man with a withered hand, the Pharisees went to the Herodians to enlist them in helping them destroy Jesus. They had a common enemy, Jesus. They began conspiring together as to how they might destroy Jesus. Why would the Pharisees do this? They thought that if they could get Jesus arrested by the Roman government for claiming to be the King of the Jews, the Herodians could get Jesus put to death for them, and they would no longer have to deal with Jesus. The Herodians were willing to work with the Pharisees, because they wanted to protect Herod from any threat or person claiming to be a king. This was a great opportunity for them to win favor with Herod.

(Mark 3:6) “The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.”

So, the chief priests, scribes and elders sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus in order to trap Him in a statement. They had all joined forces in an effort to destroy Jesus.

a. Their Question

The first trap was set by the Pharisees and Herodians. This is not their first trap for Jesus; they had tested Him a few weeks earlier in Mark 10. On Jesus’ way to Jerusalem He went beyond the Jordan in the area called Perea. This is where Herod had his second palace, and it was where

John the Baptist was kept in prison, and then put to death. Herod had John arrested because he had been telling him it was unlawful for him to have his brother's wife. The Pharisees questioned Jesus about divorce thinking that they could get Jesus arrested by Herod and put to death. This seemed like a good way to get rid of Jesus. Jesus took them back to the foundation of marriage in Genesis 2. Their question was meant for evil, but God used it for good, and we have a much better understanding of marriage and divorce because of their question.

(Mark 10:2) “*Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.*”

The Pharisees are now testing Jesus again, only this time they have come to Jesus with the Herodians. This time they asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar. The poll tax or kensos was an annual tax levied on everyone. There were a number of Jewish leaders and rabbis who refused to pay the tax. They felt it undermined God's sovereignty over God's chosen people. Why this particular question? They felt that this would trap Jesus and set everyone against Him. If Jesus responded that the poll tax was lawful, the Jews would turn against Him. If Jesus responded that it was not lawful, He could be arrested and put to death. They felt this was the perfect trap.

(Mark 12:13-15) “Then they *sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. {14} 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.”

b. Jesus' Answers

Jesus was alert, discerning, and not going to fall into their trap. He knew their hypocrisy, and their motive. He knew that the only reason the Pharisees would dare to associate with the Herodians was to destroy Him. His first response was, “Why are you testing Me?” Jesus is always looking at hearts. He wanted the Pharisees to examine their hearts about trying to destroy Him.

(Mark 12:15-17) “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} 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.”

Then, Jesus asked them to bring a denarius to Him to look at, which they did. He asked them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” And they answered Him, “Caesar's.” So Jesus told them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. Jesus did not fall into their trap, and they were amazed at Him.

We greatly profit from the question that they asked Jesus and by His answer. There are Christians today that do not feel that the government has any right to rule over the church. Some refuse to pay taxes. Some refuse to obey governmental orders about how many people can meet for a church service during the COVID-19 restrictions. They don't feel the government has

jurisdiction over God’s chosen people. The question is still relevant today. Our view is that we need to follow God’s laws, and we need to follow the laws of Caesar. Only when the laws of Caesar directly violate the laws of God should we disobey Caesar. If you are a doctor in New Mexico, the governor just signed a law that prevents doctors and nurses from refusing to perform abortions. If you are a Christian, you should conscientiously disobey the governor’s laws, because the killing of an innocent baby is a clear violation of God’s laws. We find this principle clearly practiced by the apostles in Acts 4:19-20. They said they had to obey God, not men.

(Acts 4:19-20) “But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; {20} for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

2. The Trap of the Sadducees (Mark 12:18-27)

The Pharisees and Herodians had failed to trap Jesus. Now it was time for the Sadducees to try their hand at trapping Jesus. Jesus knew all about the Sadducees and their beliefs. He knew that they did not believe in the supernatural, angels, or the resurrection. When Paul was before the Sanhedrin Council in Acts 23, he knew that there were both Pharisees and Sadducees there and he cried out, “I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!” Luke records that a dissension occurred between the two groups, and he gives us understanding about why the assembly was divided. “The Sadducees say there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.” Jesus knew what the Sadducees believed, so their resurrection question was a dead give-away that this was a trap.

(Acts 23:6-8) “But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul *began* crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!" {7} As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. {8} For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.”

a. Their question

The Sadducees gave a scenario about a married man dying before having any children. Their question was based on the law in Deuteronomy 25:5, which stated that when brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. She was to marry her husband’s brother so that he can raise a son for his brother.

(Mark 12:18-22) “Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) *came to Jesus, 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 MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER. {20} "There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. {21} "The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; {22} and so all seven left no children. Last of all the woman died also.”

(Deut 25:5) “When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband's brother

shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.”

In their story, there were seven brothers and all of them died, and each one had married the woman. They asked, “In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had married her.”

(Mark 12:23) “In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her.”

Their hypothetical question was meant to make Jesus look foolish. They knew that Jesus taught about the resurrection. In John 5, Jesus had taught that those who did good deeds will resurrect to life and those who committed evil deeds will have a resurrection of judgment. The Sadducees also knew that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. In John 11, when Jesus was speaking with Martha, who believed that her brother would rise again in the resurrection on the last day, He told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” The Sadducees knew what Jesus taught, and they thought that their question would stump him. They thought that they could make Jesus look foolish, and lose credibility with the crowds.

(John 5:28-29) “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, {29} and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

(John 11:23-25) “Jesus *said to her, "Your brother will rise again." {24} Martha *said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." {25} Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,”

b. Jesus’ Answer

Jesus’ response to them turns the tables. Instead of Jesus looking foolish, the Sadducees were the ones that looked foolish and ignorant. Jesus tells them three things. First, He tells them that they are mistaken. Second, He tells them that they do not understand the Scriptures. Third, He tells them that they do not understand the power of God.

(Mark 12:24-27) “Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?... {27} "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.”

Jesus begins and ends His answer by telling them that they are mistaken. He started out with, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken?” and He ended by saying, “You are greatly mistaken.” He told them that their doctrine about the resurrection was wrong. Proudful people hate to be told that they are mistaken, and they hate to admit their mistakes. Jesus just sent a humbling message to them, that they are mistaken.

Jesus does not just tell them that they are mistaken, He tells them why they are mistaken. He tells them that when they rise from the dead, they will not marry or be given in marriage, but will be like angels in heaven. We saw earlier in Acts that they did not believe in the resurrection or angels, and Jesus is correcting them on both of these beliefs. Jesus’ message to the Sadducees is very instructive for all of us. I love my wife, and I look forward to being with my best friend for

all eternity. But, the reality is that she will not be my wife in heaven. We will still be friends, but we won't be married.

(Mark 12:25) “For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

There are false religions and cults that promote marriage in heaven, but Jesus makes it clear. For example, in Islam, some of the Jihadists were promised seventy-two virgins in heaven if they are martyred or die in the cause of Allah. The Mormons believe in celestial marriage and that their marriages here will be continued in heaven. If a man's wife dies and he remarries, then he will have both wives in heaven. So, we can be grateful for the questions that Jesus was asked.¹

Jesus then went to the Scriptures. He did not just go to the Scriptures, He went to the book of Moses. This was significant because the Sadducees believed that the book of Moses was the ultimate authority on all doctrinal questions. The Pharisees had tried to convince the Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead, and had not been able to do it, because the Scriptures that they used all came after the book of Moses. They had not been able to show proof from the book of Moses that there was a resurrection. Jesus takes the Sadducees to the book of Moses to teach them about the resurrection. He said, “have you not read in the book of Moses...” This was a real slap in the face to the Sadducees who considered themselves the ultimate experts on the book of Moses. Jesus continued, “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.’” He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” Jesus had turned the tables on the Sadducees, and they are the ones that ended up looking foolish and ignorant. They were greatly mistaken.

(Mark 12:26-27) “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.”

Conclusion and Applications

In our passage today, the religious leaders and Herodians tried to trap Jesus. Their intent was to cause Him to stumble, look foolish and lose public support. Ultimately, they were trying to destroy Him. Jesus was fully aware of their intentions, and that they were trying to trap and test Him. Jesus was able to wisely respond in a way that turned the tables. His responses clarified Scripture for them and for us.

In Hebrews, we are taught that Jesus was tested in all things and was yet without sin. Our passage today were just two of the many tests that He faced. We are all going to be tested. The enemy is going to try to trap us and test us. His intent is to kill, steal, and destroy. In order for us to be tested and to be successful there are several things that are important.

1

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestial_marriage#:~:text=In%20Matthew%2022%3A28%E2%80%939330,that%20marriages%20will%20not%20exist

(Heb 4:15) “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.”

1. First, we have to be sober, alert, and on guard against the schemes of the enemy. Peter warns us to be of sober spirit and to be on the alert, because our adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. If they attacked Jesus, they will also attack us. Be sober and alert.

(1 Pet 5:8) “Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

(1 Pet 4:12) “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;”

2. Second, don’t give the enemy unnecessary opportunities. We don’t need to get involved in everything. We are to avoid quarrels and disputes that are not profitable. Solomon said the beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out. Paul wrote to avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes. Sometimes we will have to engage, but when possible, avoid unprofitable and worthless disputes.

(Pr 17:14) “The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.”

(Tit 3:9) “But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.”

3. Third, if we cannot avoid a test or trap, we need to be pillars of the truth. I have seen a number of leaders compromise on some key issues today. Paul, who was unashamed of the gospel, wrote that we are to be pillars and support of the truth. That is what Jesus did. He did not compromise on marriage with the Pharisees. He did not compromise on rendering to Caesar what is Caesar’s and rendering to God what is God’s. Jesus went to the Scriptures and explained them to these groups that were trying to trap Him. We have to take a stand on abortion, marriage, homosexuality, and many other things that the enemy is trying use against the church. We cannot compromise; we must be a pillar and support of the truth. Jesus always answered with truth.

(1 Tim 3:15) “but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

4. Fourth, we need to rely upon the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom in responding to the things that are asked of us.

(Luke 12:11-12) “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; {12} for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Next week, we will cover Part 2 of the Traps and Testings. We will look at the Trap of the Scribe and Jesus’ Question and Final Warning.

3. **The Trap of the Scribe (Mark 12:28-40)**
4. **Jesus' Question and Warning (Mark 12:35-40)**

Introduction (Heb 4:15, Mark 12:13-27)

1. The Trap of the Pharisees and Herodians (Mark 12:13-17, Mark 11:27,

- **Chief Priests** (Ex 28:41)
- **Scribes** (Ezra 7:21, Neh 8:1-8)
- **Pharisees**
- **Herodians** (Mark 3:6)

a. **Their Question** (Mark 10:2, 12:13-15)

b. **Jesus' Answers** (Mark 12:15-17)

2. The Trap of the Sadducees (Mark 12:18-27, Acts 23:6-8)

a. **Their question** (Mark 12:18-22, Deut 25:5, John 5:28-29, 11:23-25)

b. **Jesus' Answer** (Mark 12:24-27)

Conclusion and Applications (Heb 4:15, 1 Pet 4:12, 5:8, Pr 17:14, Tit 3:9, 1 Tim 3:15, Luke 12:11-12)

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