



**SNEAKY LITTLE HOBBITSES**





**Today's Message:**  
*Being Tricksy with Jesus*  
*Mark 12:20-34*

# Holy Week in Mark's Gospel



**SUNDAY**

*Palm Sunday*

11:1-11



**MONDAY**

*Temple Monday*

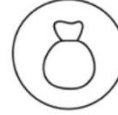
11:12-19



**TUESDAY**

*Fig Tuesday*

11:20 - 13:37



**WEDNESDAY**

*Spy Wednesday*

14:1-11



**THURSDAY**

*Maundy Thursday*

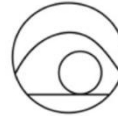
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**FRIDAY**

*Good Friday*

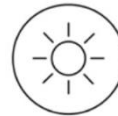
14:41 - 15:47



**SATURDAY**

*Holy Saturday*

16:1



**SUNDAY**

*Resurrection Sunday*

16:1-8



**SUNDAY**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a white rectangular sign. The sign features the text "OK MONDAY LET'S DO THIS!" in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font. The background is a blurred bokeh of various colors, including red, green, and blue, suggesting a festive or social setting. The person's hands are visible on the left and right sides of the sign, gripping it firmly.

**OK  
MONDAY  
LET'S DO THIS!**





**Taco  
Tuesday**





# Tuesday's (AM?) Events:

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1. "Where do you the authority to do this?" – Mark 11:27-33

## Mark 11:31-33

<sup>31</sup>They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>32</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ ...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

<sup>33</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

# Tuesday's (AM?) Events:

1. "Where do you the authority to do this?" – Mark 11:27-33
2. Parable of the Tenants – Mark 12:1-12

## Mark 12:9, 12

<sup>9</sup> “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others...

<sup>12</sup> Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

# Tuesday's (AM?) Events:

1. "Where do you the authority to do this?" – Mark 11:27-33
2. Parable of the Tenants – Mark 12:1-12
3. Tuesday Pop Quiz #1 (Taxes) – Mark 12:13-17

## Mark 12:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." <sup>16</sup>They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."  
And they were amazed at him.

# Tuesday's (AM?) Events:

1. "Where do you the authority to do this?" – Mark 11:27-33
2. Parable of the Tenants – Mark 12:1-12
3. Tuesday Pop Quiz #1 (Taxes) – Mark 12:13-17
4. Tuesday Pop Quiz #2 ("Whose wife is she?")  
Mark 12:18-27

## Pop Quiz #2: Testing Jesus – *Whose wife is she?*

What is a Sadducee?

### Mark 12:18-19

<sup>18</sup>Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup>“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.”

# PHARISEES

Law

Interpretations of the Torah

Middle Class

Resurrection of the Dead

Belief in Afterlife

Rejected the Jewish Leaders



# SADDUCEES

Temple

Torah Alone

Upper Class

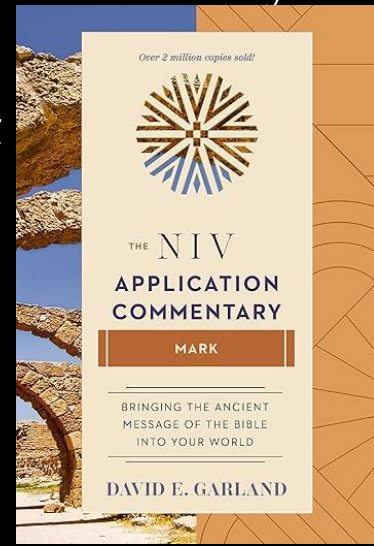
No Resurrection

No Afterlife

Supported Jewish Leaders



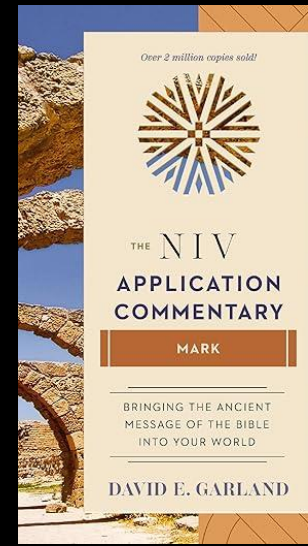
“What little we know about the Sadducees derives almost entirely from their bitter opponents, who preserved memories of conflicts with them. They did not leave a written legacy and did not survive the debacle against Rome. They were a pro-priestly party that considered the five books of Moses alone as binding. Their conservatism led them to reject any theological innovations they regarded as derived from something other than the Pentateuch. The belief in the resurrection fell into that category since the books of Moses never mention it.



The Wisdom of Solomon 2:1–5 contains a pessimistic argument against the afterlife. This perspective may accord with that of the Sadducees.

*For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,  
“Short and sorrowful is our life,  
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,  
and no one has been known to return from Hades.  
For we were born by mere chance,  
and hereafter we shall be as though we had never been,  
for the breath in our nostrils is smoke,  
and reason is a spark kindled by the beating of our hearts;  
when it is extinguished, the body will return to ashes,  
and the spirit will dissolve like empty air.  
Our name will be forgotten in time,  
and no one will remember our works;*

~ David E. Garland, *Mark*, The NIV Application Commentary  
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 468-469



## Pop Quiz #2: Testing Jesus – *Whose wife is she?*

The set up

### Mark 12:18-19

<sup>18</sup>Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. <sup>19</sup>“Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.”

## Deuteronomy 25:5-6

<sup>5</sup>If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. <sup>6</sup>The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

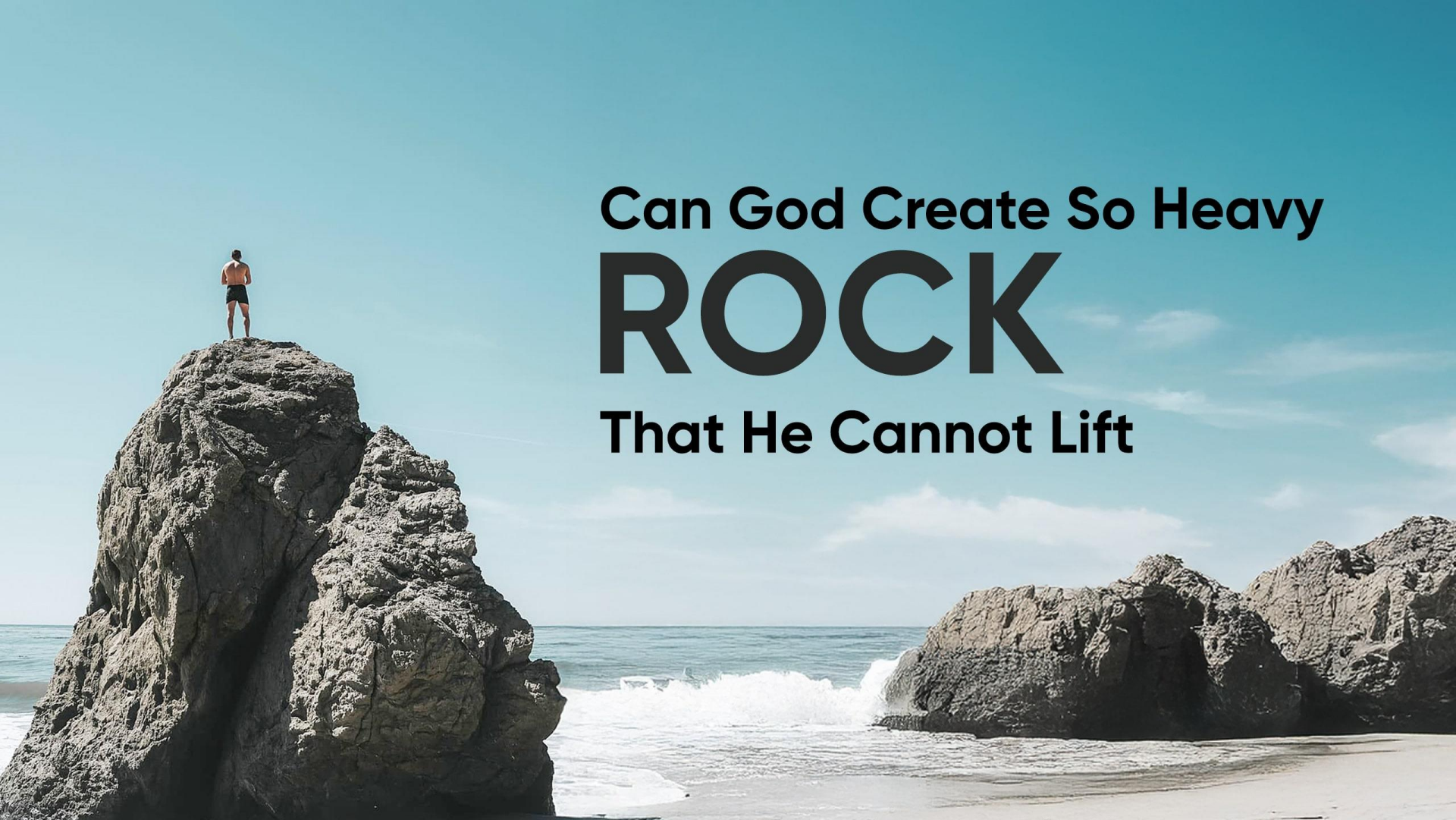
# Pop Quiz #2: Testing Jesus – *Whose wife is she?* The riddle

## Mark 12:20-23

<sup>20</sup>“Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. <sup>21</sup>The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. <sup>22</sup>In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. <sup>23</sup>At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”



**ГОТЧА!**



Can God Create So Heavy  
**ROCK**  
That He Cannot Lift



**Nonsense remains  
nonsense even when we  
talk it about God.**

C. S. Lewis

## Pop Quiz #2: Testing Jesus – *Whose wife is she?*

Jesus' AWESOME answer

### Mark 12:24-27

<sup>24</sup>Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? <sup>25</sup>When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup>Now about the dead rising – have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup>He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

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1. "Where do you the authority to do this?" – Mark 11:27-33

2. Parable of the Tenants – Mark 12:1-12

3. Tuesday Pop Quiz #1 (Taxes) – Mark 12:13-17

4. Tuesday Pop Quiz #2 ("Whose wife is she?")  
Mark 12:18-27

5. Tuesday Pop Quiz #3 ("What commands are most important?")  
Mark 12:28-34

# Pop Quiz #3: Testing Jesus – *Top Commandment?*

## The Test

### Mark 12:28

<sup>28</sup>One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

# Pop Quiz #3: Testing Jesus – *Top Commandment?* Jesus' answer + a bonus!

## Mark 12:29-31

<sup>29</sup>“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

# The Shema

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

## Pop Quiz #3: Testing Jesus – *Top Commandment?*

The approval of the tester

### Mark 12:32-33

<sup>32</sup>“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup>To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

## Pop Quiz #3: Testing Jesus – *Top Commandment?*

“You’re not far...”

### Mark 12:34

<sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Jesus only partially affirms what the teacher of the law has said. He had assumed a superior position from which he passed judgment on Jesus' teaching. Jesus puts things in proper perspective as the final arbiter of the interpretation of the law and, what is more important, as the one who knows who is near or far from the kingdom of God. This teacher of the law is not far from the kingdom. He is not in — that is, he has not fully chosen God's rule for himself — but he does not have far to go. This answer effectively silences the teacher. To be "in the kingdom" one must do more than simply approve of Jesus' teaching; one must submit entirely to his authority and person. Can he make the next step and accept Jesus as the Son of David and David's Lord?



**FOLLOW  
ME!**

# Bunny Trail #1

*What? No Marriage in Heaven? What's it gonna be like then?*



## Revelation 21:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

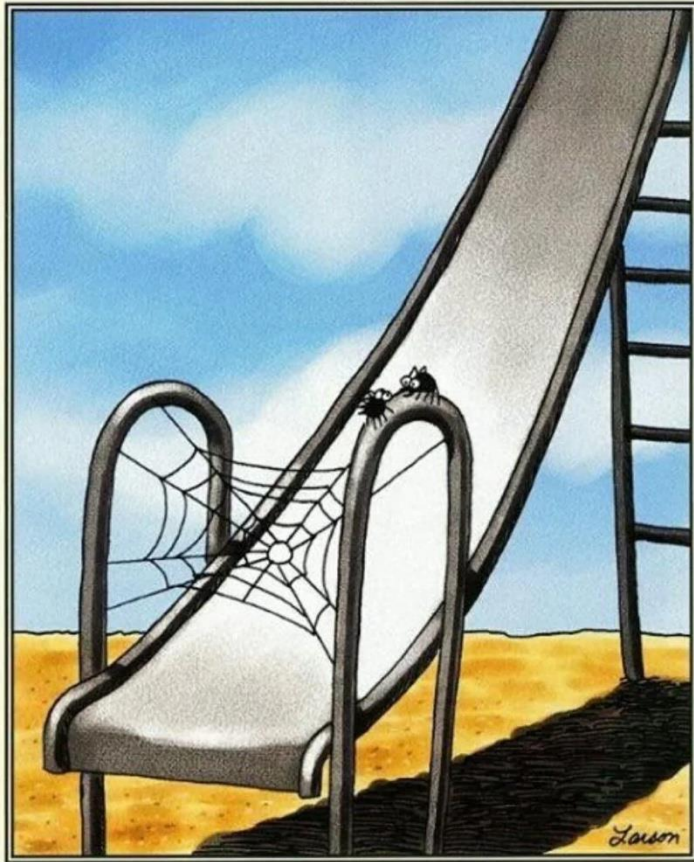
## Revelation 22:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

One of the most frequent questions I've been asked about Heaven over the years is about the nature of marriage there. As I share in my book *Heaven*, there will be one marriage in Heaven, not many. That marriage will be what earthly marriage symbolized and pointed to, the marriage of Christ to His bride. So we will all be married – but to Christ. Our marriage to Him is the true Marriage, of which the best of earthly marriages was a symbol and shadow. Those who did not experience marriage or had only a poor marriage on earth will be delighted with their eternal Bridegroom, who has already gone to prepare a place for them. One day all Heaven will attend the ultimate wedding, and we will be His bride (see Revelation 19:7-9).

~ Randy Alcorn, *Does Our Marriage to Christ in Heaven Mean Our Earthly Marriage Partners Won't Be Important to Us?*  
Blog post on July 7, 2017 at <https://www.epm.org/resources/2017/Jul/7/marriage-christ-heaven-earth/>

11/17/83



“If we pull this off, we’ll eat like kings.”

## Bunny Trail #2

*What's the whole commandment thing about if we are free in Christ?*



## **Bunny Trail #2**

*What's the whole commandment thing about if we are free in Christ?*

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

# Gospel Living

# Gospel Living

DO

# Gospel Living

DO



DONE

# Gospel Living

DO

JUSTIFICATION

“I’m ok in Jesus”



DONE

## **Bunny Trail #2**

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<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# Gospel Living

DO

JUSTIFICATION

“I’m ok in Jesus”



DONE



DO

# Gospel Living

DO

JUSTIFICATION

“I’m ok in Jesus”



DONE

SANCTIFICATION

I get to walk in his ways



DO



Do you long for heaven?



Do you long for heaven?

What does  
“Love for God”

And

“Love for Neighbor”  
look like for you this  
next week?

