

I. **THE CONTEXT.**

- A. The time of Jesus execution is drawing near. He has but a little time to teach His disciples. In Mark, chapter 12, Jesus answers some difficult questions:
  - 1. A question about responsibility (Mk. 12:13-17).  
The Jews were to pay taxes; rendering to God what was God's in spiritual things.
  - 2. A question about eternity (Mk. 12:18-27).  
The Sadducees would know the answer to their question if two things had been part of their lives: the power of God and a knowledge of the Scriptures.
  - 3. A question about identity (Mk. 12:35-37).  
The only way that David's son could also be David's Lord would be if the Messiah were God come in human flesh. The very thing Jesus was trying to impress upon people.
  - 4. But our question is a question about priority (Mk. 12:28-34).

II. **LEAN TOWARD STABILITY.**

- A. The scribes were determined that the Jews were obligated to obey 613 precepts in the Law (365 negative, 248 positive). One of their favorite exercises was discussing which of these divine commandments was the greatest.
- B. Once this scribe heard X's answer to his question, he agreed with it! He commended the Lord. The Word had spoken to his heart and he was beginning to get a deeper spiritual understanding of the faith he thought he understood. It was no longer a faith wrapped up in ordinance keeping, but one based on love for God, neighbor, and self.
- C. Is our faith based on commandment keeping or our love for God?
- D. When the scribe realized this fact he was not far from the kingdom of God:
  - 1. He/she is facing truth honestly and not defending some "party line."
  - 2. His/her faith is based on a love for God and desire to do what is right.
  - 3. With this attitude one begins to see salvation by grace and not by works.

III. **THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING TO LEAN.**

- A. See Prov. 3:5-6.
- B. When you learn to learn you don't have to worry about direction anymore. Your life will always be going in the right direction when you learn to lean on Jesus.
- C. Make your plans to finish school, go to college, get a job, buy a car, etc., but don't forget to lean on Jesus.
- D. We always want things to be sure and make sense. And life won't always be sure and won't always make sense. In Lk. 5, Jesus told Peter to let down the nets one more time, and Peter said they had tried that and it didn't work. But this time it was going to be different, they were going to lean on Jesus and put the nets down. Peter did what didn't make sense!
- E. Everybody in the world wants to "jack-it-up" crank it higher, faster, and bigger! Jesus wants me to learn to lean.
- F. Read Isa. 40:31.
- G. The devil and the lost don't really care about how much money you have or are going to make; what kind of ability you have; or what position of greatness you ascend to. But they sit on the edge of their seat wanting to know; are you going to lean on Jesus. Because if you do, the lost can be saved, and the devil will be defeated!
- H. Please check and see who you are leaning on today. Is it God? You can tell if it is God because He has nail prints in His hands, aside that has been ripped open, and a imprints from a crown of thorns.
- I. Learn to lean and:

1. You will never see darkness.
2. You will never die.
3. You will never be snatched from the Father's hand.
4. You will bear much fruit.
5. You will grow in ways you never dreamed of.
6. You will develop a love for others that is deeper than you thought possible.
7. You will have a stability that established in heaven that earth will be jealous of.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.**

- A. When a person decides they want to lean on Jesus, what is the first thing you think they should do?
- B. Name and discuss some Bible men and woman that leaned on Jesus.
- C. What are some hindrances to leaning on Jesus?
- D. How can you encourage a fellow Xian to learn to lean?
- E. What are you personally going to do to learn to lean on Jesus?