

## **April 26, read Mark 12**

Mark 12 demonstrates conclusively that the Jesus of the New Testament is master of the Old. His quotations of and references to the Jewish Scripture abound in this passage. For example, His parable of the vinegrowers is a continuation of the parable spoken by Isaiah centuries before. (See Isaiah 5:1-7.)

Our Lord revealed His comprehension of the writings of Israel when He recounted the fate of the prophets. To discover His sources, look at Jeremiah 26:20-23, 37:15; II Chronicles 24:21, 36:16; and II Kings 17:13. We also note that Jesus quoted from Messianic Psalm 118 as had the Palm Sunday crowd, from the Law (Exodus 3:5, Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 and Leviticus 19:18) and from Psalm 110. He proved He thoroughly knew and understood His Bible.

The religious leaders also could quote Scripture. They rattled off a text at the snap of a finger. They had chapter and verse ready to prove themselves right and others wrong. They could trace the root of words, dissect sentences and divide "jots and tittles." They knew, but they didn't know. They missed the point, for the law and the prophets testified of Jesus Christ. Yet they rejected Him while claiming to accept the Word of God.

Some 2,000 years later, we Christians likewise can misuse and abuse God's Word. We may study it to satisfy our curiosity, to tickle our intellects, to gather ammunition against our enemies and to buttress our religiosity. We should study our Bibles in order to know Jesus Christ and His will for our lives.

**Think: Consider the model Jesus gave you concerning His knowledge and understanding of the Bible.**

**Pray: Lord, give me love for and understanding of Your Word and apply its truths to my everyday life.**