

SERVANT KING | A LEADER WORTH FOLLOWING  
OWNED BY JESUS: GOD'S SERVANT PRIORITIZES WORSHIP

Mark 12:31-44

8.3.25

Those who play games with God find themselves owned before they even get started

*Two losing tactics hypocrites grasp at in their doomed contest against reality:*

#1 "I'LL JUST OUTSMART GOD" – OUR 'CLEVERNESS' DOESN'T IMPRESS GOD (13-37)

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Imagining our 'dilemmas' stump God is a big mistake | *Abandon your schemes to outwit God*

*Four rounds of 'clever' confrontations show the futility of trying to outsmart God:*

Round #1 **On Loyalty**: An apparent *moral* dilemma about taxes posed by a sinister alliance of the cultural influencers (13-17)

Round #2 **On Logic**: An apparent *logical* dilemma about the resurrection posed by cynical institutional elite (18-27)

Round #3 **On Law**: An apparent *practical* dilemma about the law posed by an 'opportunist' legal scholar (28-34)

\*Bonus\* Round #4 **On Lordship**: An apparent *theological* dilemma about the Christ posed by Jesus Himself in return (35-37)

#2 "I'LL JUST OUTSHINE OTHERS" – OUR 'PERFORMANCES' DON'T IMPRESS GOD (38-44)

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'Reverence' to impress eyes of men isn't real worship to the heart of God | *Drop the charade*

*Two contrasting kinds of reverence show the vanity of trying to outdo others:*

#1 **Man-Oriented Showmanship**: Fake reverence competing with people to impress others by our own 'glory' as showcased by the scribes (38-40)

#2 **God-Oriented Worship**: True reverence celebrating God in praise of his glory (41-44)