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SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:27-12:44. DEVOTIONAL READING: Mark 12:

Jesus And Critics

Lesson for May 8, 1949

DURING JESUS' last week, his enemies were firing at pointblank range. They were dead set to kill him; but they did not want to do that if they

could ruin him some other way. What they tried to was to make him out either a rascal or a fool, or both. Mark's story shows how Jesus took it.

The first question they asked Dr. Foreman

sounded perfectly fair. "Where did you get your authority?" As we saw last week, Jesus had assumed simply tremendous authority Wasn't it fair to ask him where he got it?

The trouble was that the men who asked the questions didn't want to know They only wanted

The world is full of just such license-hunting snoopers as these. They do not like it when a man succeeds. They particplarly do not like it when a man succeeds without their help.

"Who is this fellow anyway? Where did he get his start? what family does he have, where is his diploma?" Jesus never answered this question, because he knew why they asked it. (Mark 11:27-33)

IN JESUS' TIME you could not vote either for more taxes, or less. You paid what the Roman soldier at your door said to pay, ir not to be poked in the to his sword while you were a mg up the mon ey. But no one usted to complain. The Romans had some deep dank dungeons for people who complained about high taxes. So the next question Jeans enemies asked him was about axes, or tribute, which means the same thing. They thought they had Jesus on a spot where whatever he said would put him in the wrong Suppose he said: "Yes, pay takes by all means."
Then they would snarl: "Bootlicker of the Romans! Traitor to your country!" But if Jesus said. "No, don't pay taxes," then they would howl: "Treason! Police! Arrest this man who defies the Emperor!" Jesus' answer was a masterpiece, because he not only did not dodge the hot question, he did not leave the questioners a leg to stand on. (Mark 12:17).

Hairsplitters by Trade

THE CRITICS of Jesus were hairsplitters by trade. Yet none of them had ever been able to answer another tricky question with which they now expected to floor

"Which is the greatest com-mandment of all?" The question had been going the rounds for generations. The greatest minds in Jewery had wrestled with it. But it was a foolish question after all.

Which is the most important brick in a wall? What position on a volley-ball team is the most important? What is the most important link in a chain? An answer to these questions would seem about as easy as answering that one about the greatest commandment. Jesus knew they were trying to show him up as a bungler, as a very poor and amateurish hairspitter indeed. But instead, he did what no one ex pected him to do: he answered their question, and answered it so well that it is one of the cornerstones of our religion today

How to Take Criticism

THE READER should consult Mark for the whole story. It bristles with practical thoughts, one of the most practical being how to ake criticism Al. or us can take it from our triends and families: we know they mean it for our own good. But criticism that is unfair, om people who want only to show us up for fools or to get us into ot water-that is hard to take sus should be our example.

He did not let other people's criticisms interfere with his work. He never avoided crit-icism. He did not "twist the lion's tall, he did not deliberately provoke criticism. But be would not claim exemption from what every one has to stand, being looked over and rated by the people who knew

He never broke his heart over hat people said of him. He did not go around crying to himself.

CORN GROWERS

Springtime Serenade



Miraculously Healed

By: MISS MACY COX

Habe you heard about "Little David", the Bby Evangelist? Mrs. Emma Pope had flu right after Christmas and was left in feeble cond



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ion. In the middle of February she had a slight stroke. Fell in the Edgar Brinson Dies yard; could not talk for a few days and had sever gotten able to help herself but little up to a week ago last Friday. Her daughter-in-law went in every morning cooked her breakfast and waited on her. She could not walk without help. On Friday she received a letter from "Little David" and a little white ribbon badge with "Little David. Boy Preacher", Prayer Ribbon. Acts 191 11-12- Heb. 1 13:8. It was anointed and to be pinned on her garment. She pinned it on, and in a few minutes stood up alone. She then began to walk and next morning got up, made her bed, cleane i up the room, cooked breakfast. washed dishes and was walking over the house when her daughterin-law came in. She has been walking around just as well as she has Sunday to spend a week. She is 82 years old

old and preaching sometimes to more than 30,000 people.

Edgar Branco 69 died Wednesday night of last week at his home in the Ced a Fork community after being in ill health for several

day afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Cedar Fork Baptist Church by Rev. A. L. Brown, pastor, assisted by Rev. S. A. Smith of Beulaville, Bur ial was in the church cemetery

He is survived by three sons Harvey and Graham of the homand Waddell of Warsaw; two grand children; five brothers, Edmond and Clyde of Beulaville Lemuel ever been, went to Wilmington on of Wilmington. Stephen of Chinquapin, and Elmer of the Navy six sisters, Mrs. H. O. Quinn of "Little David" has been preaching Pink Hill, Mrs. Walter Brown, Mrs. since nine years old, and through W. E. Thigpen and Mrs. E. P. Thighim God is healing all manner of pen all of Bentaville, Mrs. R. D. sickness. He is now about 13 years Marcady and Mrs. L. H. Smiller

land both of Chinquapin

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