

The Gospel According to Mark

"In God We Trust"

Mark 12:13-17



9/25/2022 AM

Introduction:

Wednesday is a very long day for Jesus:

- 1) the challenge to His authority by the Sanhedrin (11:27-33)
- 2) the dilemma of paying taxes, posed by the Pharisees and Herodians (12:13-17)
- 3) the debate on the resurrection, raised by the Sadducees (12:18-27)
- 4) the question of the greatest commandment by the scribes (12:28-34)
- 5) the defense of His deity and messianic identity, raised by Jesus Himself (12:35-37)

I. THE PLOT FORMED (vs. 13-15a)

A. A Select Team (vs. 13)

"Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him..."

"in order to trap Him in a statement." (Luke 20:20)

B. Their Snide Tactic (vs. 14a)

"They came and said to Him, 'Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.' "

C. The Subtle Trap (vs. 14b-15a)

" 'Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?' "

" ' Shall we pay or shall we not pay?' "

II. THE PLOT FOILED (vs. 15b-17)

A. What He Recognized (vs. 15b)

"But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, 'Why are you testing Me?' "

B. What He Requested (vs. 15c-16)

" 'Bring Me a denarius to look at.' They brought one."

"And He said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' And they said to Him, 'Caesar's.' "



C. What He Replied (vs. 17)

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s...’ ”

What should we give to Caesar?

“ ‘and to God the things that are God’s.’ ” (Genesis 1:26-27)

What should we give to God?

“And they were amazed at Him.”

Conclusion:

- 1) We are required to be good citizens, living in subjection to government authority, even a pagan one.

Romans 13:1-7

- 2) We ought to live internationally with ultimate allegiance to Christ and His kingdom.

I Peter 2:13-17

- 3) We must obey the state but worship only God.

I Timothy 2:1-5

What about “civil disobedience”?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Food for Thought:

- 1) What was the motive of the Pharisees and Herodians in their question?
- 2) How do you think the crowd responded to what Jesus said on this occasion?
- 3) What is the legitimate purpose of human government? What are the responsibilities of citizens?
- 4) How do you handle disagreements that you have with your government?