

SERMON OUTLINE

Mark 12:13-17 reveals 3 questions through which we learn about a believer's responsibility to government & God.

- I. The leaders ask a trapping question.
 - A. The intent is stated (v. 13).
 - B. The sarcasm is spoken (v. 14a).
 - C. The trap is sprung (v. 14b).
- II. Jesus asks a revealing question (v. 15a).
- III. Jesus asks a reorienting question (v. 15b-17)
 - A. A coin is produced (v. 15b-16a).
 - B. A question is posed (v. 16b).
 - C. A command is provided (v. 17).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 21, 2016

Passage: Mark 12:13-17

Memory Passage: Mark 12:17

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:13-17.** Why do you think the Sanhedrin delegation sent Pharisees & Herodians to set this particular trap?
- (b) How, exactly, did the leaders think this question would trap Him?
- (c) Did the leaders believe what they said about Jesus in v. 14? Were they being sarcastic? Flattering? Polite? Truthful?
- (d) Do you think the answer Jesus is about to give is applicable to you or just those under the reign of Caesar? Explain why.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 12:13-17.** What was hypocritical about the leaders' question?
- (b) How does Jesus' answer (v. 17) short-circuit the trap the leaders tried to set for "talk?"
- (c) How does Jesus' command to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" apply to your responsibility to pay taxes?
- (d) What do you think the leaders and other Jews who heard Jesus thought of His answer? Why?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Tim. 2:1-2, Tit. 3:1-2, & 1 Pet. 2:13-17.** How do these passages further define your responsibility to government?
- (b) How do these passages define the government's role and purpose?
- (c) What qualifications do you find *in these passages* that limit your obedience to government?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ex. 1:15-21, 1 Kgs. 18:1-16, Esther 4:16, Dan. 3:12-18, 6:10, Matt. 2:12, & Acts 5:29.** How do these passages further define your responsibility to government?

(b) Given the strong admonitions you saw yesterday to obey the governmental authorities God has appointed over you, as well as the passages of Scripture that affirm godly disobedience in certain instances, what might the government command you to do that would require you to "obey God rather than man?" Please give this some thought and be able to justify your civil disobedience from the Scriptural principles you have studied rather than your personal dislike of any given law. Remember: Jesus did not comment on the moral status of Caesar when He commanded His people to render unto Caesar what was his.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark. 12:13-17.** Caesar's image on the Roman coin was the basis for Jesus' command to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." What is the basis for His command to "render . . . to God the things that are God's?"
- (b) What exactly are the things that you should render to God? How are they separate from what you render to Caesar? How are they the same? In other words, can you render to Caesar what is his in such a way that at the same time renders to God what is His?
- (c) What are the most difficult things for you to render to God? Why are they difficult, and what is your plan to overcome these difficulties beginning today?
- (d) In what ways have you learned to render these things that are God's to Him that might encourage others to grow in obedience to this command? How might others learn from your experiences both of obedience and disobedience?

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