

Mark 12:13-17 — "An Emotional, Political Question with a Profound, Spiritual Answer!"

Mark 12:13ff - In this account, we eavesdrop on a *confrontation*.

1. *The Comrades* - pharisees + Herodians
2. *The Cunning* - in order to trap him ... you are not partial, you teach way of God, etc. etc. etc.
3. *The Question* - should we pay or not pay tax?
4. *The Clarification* - render to Caesar what is his.
5. *The Kingship* - AND you must render to God the things that are God's!!!! = everything!

I. THE QUESTION: Do we pay our taxes to Caesar? (13-15a)

The Jews were enraged at having to pay taxes to Rome, thus supporting the pagan government and its gods. There were seeking to hang Jesus on the "on the horns of a dilemma" with either horn capable of inflicting a fatal blow (Alfred Edersheim).

A. v.13 - Pharisees + Herodians.

B. v.14b-15a — *The Question*:

II. THE ANSWER: Give to Him appropriately; God to God unreservedly! (15b-17)**A. THE COIN - had 2 sides (=denarius):**

- SIDE 1—profile of the head of Tiberius Caesar with the Latin inscription: "Tiberius Caesar, son of the Divine Augustus"
- SIDE 2—a picture of the seated Emperor -- with the latin inscription: "High Priest".



And they said to Him, "Caesar's - The denarius had an image of the reigning Caesar, in this case probably Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 14-37) and included an inscription which referred to Caesar as divine and as "chief priest." The Caesars were worshiped as gods, so the claim to divinity on the coin itself repulsed the Jews. Thus the coin served as a constant reminder of Israel's subjection to Rome (one that they even had to "pay for!").

B. *V.17—the answer! 2 parts.**1. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesars!****2. Render to GOD the things that are God's!*****Implications:***

1. Government is legitimate and must be obeyed (Rom 13.1-7; Titus 3.1-2; 1 Pet 2.13-17)
2. Government has its limits and is not ultimate (Acts 5.39)
3. Give all that you are to God in full submission

What are we to render — give — to GOD? — 10 scriptures:

1. Glory and Strength (1 Chron 16.28)
2. The glory/honor due his name (1 Chron 16.29)
3. Worship God in the splendor of holiness (Psalm 29.1)
4. We are to ALL worship & glorify God (Psalm 96.7)
5. We are to bring an offering & worship God where he dwells (Psalm 96.8)
6. Even when suffering, you are not to be ashamed but you are to give glory to God (1 Pet 4.16)
7. Present yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness (Rom 6.13)
8. Present your bodies (=lives) a living and holy sacrifice (Rom 12.1)
9. We are to present ourselves approved to God as workmen who do NOT need to be ashamed (2 Tim 2.15)
10. You have been bought/redeemed with a price, so glorify God with your body. (1 Cor 6.20)

The Question: Does Jesus have *all* of you? (1 Cor 6.19-20)**Give to God what is God's...**

1. God owns EVERYTHING -- including you & all that you have.

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2. God deserves WORSHIP -- He himself is praiseworthy & He calls you to praise Him!
3. God calls you to REPENT -- He has fixed a day when Christ will judge and there's one escape!
4. God looks for FAITHFULNESS -- all that you have is on loan FROM HIM to you for HIS glory.
5. God blesses OBEDIENCE -- give all you are to Him. Obey government. Tell others of God's authority!
6. God calls for FINANCIAL GIVING — so that you give to Him first, for progressing the gospel & serving others.

Some applications from this text:

- Self-righteous hate Jesus. - he exposes their sin.
- Hypocrisy stands naked before Jesus. — he sees it all. nothing is hidden from him.
- Don't Test the Lord. — don't put the LORD your God to the test (Deut 6.16; Matt 4.7)
- Obey Gov't. — Follow, obey gov't and be lawful and obedient, living quiet lives.
- God owns everything. — only HE is ultimate. He owns it all (Ps 24.1)
- Submit your all to Jesus. — He is Lord & God. You owe Him your everything.

A survey of Romans 13:1-7 on the Christian's relationship with government.

1. Everyone is commanded to submit to government (v.1)
2. God Himself establishes authority & all governing authorities (v.1b)
3. Whoever resists authority resists God Himself & will be judged (v.2)
4. Government is a servant of God & is under His ultimate authority (v.3-4)
5. All who do evil are to be punished by government (v.4)
6. Submit to your government not only to avoid consequences but for a clean conscience (v.5)
7. You pay your taxes remembering that all rulers are servants of God (v.6)
8. Honor and fear the leaders God has over you (v.7)

PSALM 46

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah, set to Alamoth. A Song.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. **Selah.**
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.
- 6 The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. **Selah.**
- 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has wrought desolations in the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire.
- 10 "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. **Selah.**

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4 That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

PRAYER MEETING**1. Remember!**

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the king of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
For He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly forever adore Him.

2. Repent!

Create in me a clean heart, O God And renew a right spirit within me (*repeat*)
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me

3. Request!

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee!

4. Readiness!

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His
eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than
conqueror.

Stand then in His great might, with all His strength
endued,
But take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God;
That, having all things done, and all your conflicts
passed,
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone and stand
entire at last.