

I LOVE that we primarily teach Vs-by-Vs thru God's Word

Because we APPLY God's Word
IN the ORDER it was written – (& GOD makes it "Fit")

& today's text certainly FITS
what Believers in this Nation are dealing with - TODAY

It's Feb 2021 - & I think the Anti-God – Cancel Culture –
Marxist Ideology - that's trying to take over our Country

is easily apparent to anyone who's watching
So – I don't really need to - paint that picture

Let's just say – we've come a LONG WAY from a Gov't
That once Protected - The Freedom of Religion

So – Today's text is Really, Really Applicable

Remember – last week we started

the No-Holds Barred
Spiritual Cage-fight to The Death

between Jesus & the Religious Leaders of his day

ROUND ONE was about "Authority"
Easy WIN for Jesus

ROUND TWO was the **Parable** we Titled - **“Do We Owe God?”**
Huge WIN for Jesus

TODAY IS ROUND THREE – **“Give What Belongs To God”**
& Jesus **Really WINS** - **Round Three** today

Let’s Pray

If **you think** there’s **some crazy stuff** happening
in the **ruling powers** in **our country today**

believe me – it’s **nothing new**

LAST WEEK we **saw** the **3 Ruling Parties**
that **made up** the **SANHEDRIN**

which was **the group** that would
ultimately orchestrate the **Death of Jesus**

TODAY we meet **ANOTHER ruling party** –
& **this one** is even **more** like the **“rulers”** we **face today**

This week we meet **The HERODIANS**

The **HERODIANS** were a **Powerful**
Jewish “semi-religious” – **Political Group**

Who **worked secretly** with the **Romans**
primarily for their **Own Political Benefit**

We might compare them to B.L.M. or ANTIFA today

They had their own agenda
but they “*played along with Rome*”

they saddled up to the Rome
instead of standing against Rome - like the PHARISEES did

& these two ruling groups - absolutely HATED each other

BUT – they BOTH hated
the “trouble” Jesus was causing – in their worlds

& SO – that old saying
becomes true in our text today

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend”

although these Groups were Enemies
They BOTH wanted Jesus GONE

& so today – they join forces
to try to take Jesus OUT

It's like Rocky Balboa

having to Fight TWO of his hardest opponents
AT THE SAME TIME

Here we go - Mark 12:13 (NLT)

13 Later the leaders (the Sanhedrin, that Jesus rocked last week) **sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod** (Herodians) **to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.**

How Applicable is this – **to us Today?**

The **REAL Leaders** (the ones **pulling** the **strings**)

SENT - Hand-Picked Antagonists

from **two** conflicting **Political Groups**

to the **person** they **wanted** to **Cancel**

To **TRAP** that **person** into **saying something**
that they could **CANCEL them for**

But - **not just CANCEL** them
hopefully Politically EXECUTE them as **well**

Guys – V.13 (with a couple **name changes**)

could be a **HEADLINE**

from **one** of the (**very few**) - **REAL NEWS Ch's** today

So – the **Stage IS SET** for **Round THREE**
of this **CAGE FIGHT** to **the Death**

& - from a “Political Attack” Perspective

It is **almost Identical** – to **what** we **see** **every day** – **today**

Vs.13 – is the “Backroom Set-Up”

Where the string-pullers

Devised the plan to take down Jesus

& in V.14 – they roll out the plan

Mark 12:14 (NLT)

14 “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully . . .

that’s a healthy dose of manure – isn’t it?

No one believed ANY of that – especially Jesus

[SIDE NOTE] - Be careful –

when people that you KNOW - have an Agenda

begin a conversation - with Flattery like that

Because they always have another SHOE to DROP

& for these guys - - the Other SHOE drops
at the end of V.14 & into V.15

Mark 12:14(b)-15(a) (NLT)

14 . . . Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

15 Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” . . .

Right now - you could see this “SQUAD of Politicians”
nodding & winking at each other

They thought they
HAD Jesus “On The Ropes”

& they were just WAITING to Start Celebrating

Here’s what they were HOPING

the PHARISEES were hoping for Jesus to say
“YES, you should pay taxes”

So they could turn the Jewish people
AGAINST Jesus – as a TRAITOR to Rome

& the HERODIANS were hoping for Jesus to say
“NO, you should not pay taxes”

so they could turn Jesus - over to Rome
& have him removed as an “Enemy of Rome”

But – both groups
were ignorant about one critical detail

They were dealing with THE SON OF GOD

*Boys, I think you just brought a pea-shooter
to a Battle with “The Lord of Heaven’s Armies”*

cont’g in Mark 12:15(b) (NLT) → → →

Mark 12:15(b) (NLT)

15 . . . Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.”

The **words**, “**Why are you trying to trap me?**”
are **really important**

Because the **Primary CONTEXT** here
is **Jesus Dealing With** - this “**Attempted Entrapment**”

& so the **Primary PURPOSE** – Of **Jesus’ RESPONSE**
is to DEAL with - this **Attempted Entrapment**

This is **NOT** a **Full Dissertation**

on all **aspects** & **nuances**
of **dealing** with **the Government and God**

This is a “**One Sentence**” – “**Knock Out PUNCH**”

That **gives us** – an **incredible**
ONE-SENTENCE PRINCIPLE - to **LIVE BY**

Jesus gives us here - an **OVERALL Principal**
an **All-Encompassing Principal – To LIVE BY**

Here it comes - & it's **just ONE Sentence**

So **DON'T MISS IT**

Mark 12:16–17 (NLT)

***16 When they handed it (the coin) to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.
17 “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” . . .***

This coin was a Denarius

On **One Side** it had an **IMPRINT** of the **IMAGE**
of the **Head** of **Caesar-Tiberius**

With the **inscription** -

Tiberius Caesar, son of the Divine Augustus (son of a god)

On the **Reverse Side** was **PONTIFEX MAXIMVS**

Which **means** – **CHIEF PREIST**

Referring to the **fact** that – the **Roman Emperor**

Was **‘Chief Priest’** over **all Pagan Worship**

BTW – this **SAME** Title **PONTIFEX MAXIMVS**

Is **still used today** by the **Catholic** church – for **the POPE**

& **so** – the **Lord Held Up** the **COIN**

& the **Antagonists thought**

THIS was their Moment

& Jesus said - ***“Whose picture and title are stamped on [the coin]?” . . . “Caesar’s,” they replied.***

& **then comes** the **incredible reply** from **Jesus** (in **v.17**)

“Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

& with One **Knock-Out PUNCH**
THIS Round (Round 3) – Also **Goes to Jesus**

& the end of **Mark 12:17 (NLT)**
17 . . . His reply completely amazed them.

Maybe a **paraphrase** could be
“His reply - Knocked the Wind out of them”

& they **stumbled back** into **their corner** (again)
To **lick their wounds**, and **prepare** for the **next round**

So – What do we learn

from this **One Sentence Principle**
that we can **live our lives by?**

FIRST (and foremost) we **Must Learn**

Ownership is MARKED – by an IMPRINT

It was clearly understood – in THAT day

that the IMPRINT on that coin
MARKED its OWNERSHIP

It was understood – that coin – was actually the property
of the One Whose IMPRINT was On it

THAT is why every Emperor

had THEIR IMAGE
Imprinted on the coins of THEIR TIME

Jesus was just stating – what everyone already KNEW

The Emperor OWNED that coin
Because it had his Image - IMPRINTED on it

& so the Obvious Question is

WHOSE IMAGE – is Imprinted on YOU?

WHOSE IMAGE – is Imprinted on OUR LIFE?

If Caesars IMAGE – is imprinted on Our Life
Then OUR LIFE – Belongs - TO CAESAR

BUT – if GOD'S IMAGE – is imprinted on Our Life
Then OUR LIFE – Belongs – TO GOD

Please - HEAR God SPEAK to you – in GEN 1:27

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

27 So God created [YOU] in his own image. In the image of God he created [YOU] . . .

When God **CREATED YOU**

He **IMPRINTED** his **IMAGE** - **ON YOU**

YOUR Life – has the **Very IMAGE of God**
IMPRINTED ON IT

& **the IMPRINT** – of **GOD’S IMAGE** – **On YOUR Life**
Is **PROOF** – of **His Rightful Ownership**

AND – **if** you have **Believed & Received Jesus Christ**
as your Savior Today – **then**

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 [When you believed in Jesus Christ] you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance . . .

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:22 (NKJV)

22 [God] also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

This word "SEALED us" – is speaking Historically
of an IMPRINT Seal – that Conveyed Ownership

So – The FIRST Question is
WHOSE IMAGE IS IMPRINTED ON YOUR LIFE ?

The SECOND Question Is
ARE YOU GIVING HIM WHAT BELONGS TO HIM?

It would be SO MUCH EASIER right now
to have a conversation about – WHAT Do we OWE
to our "Currently Crazy Government" – (wouldn't it?)

It would be SO MUCH EASIER to talk about
What Happens if this ANTI-GOD, MARXIST IDEOLOGY
really does take over this country

It would be SO MUCH EASIER to talk about
Should we BOW to the "Near Communist" attempt
to control the people - by an out-of-control Government

It would be SO MUCH EASIER to talk about
Should we PAY TAXES
& should we Obey the Laws of the Land

& those things

DO have their place – to talk about

& there certainly ARE Places in the Bible

where these things are more clearly taught

BUT – IS ALL THAT

really WHAT Jesus is talking about – HERE?

OR – is this One-Sentence Principle for Life

(that Jesus DROPS like a Back-Breaker Wrestling Move)

About something BIGGER than ALL THAT?

Jesus is talking about an Over-Riding – All-Encompassing Principle Of Life

OWNERSHIP is Based on the IMPRINT of the Creator

& So - the real question is

Have we READ PAST

the 1st Half of this - Double-Edged Life-Principal

& asked ourselves

WHOSE IMPRINT of Ownership – is ON ME

& HOW am I responding – to the IMPRINT of Ownership

that God has put on MY LIFE?

“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

Can I tell you please

If you get the SECOND-HALF of this Principle Right

Then – Getting the SECOND-HALF Right

Will Take Care of you getting the FIRST-HALF Right

& **so again** – Like **last week** – I **want** to **ask you**
to just **Spend Just a Minute** with **God** here

Don’t be **“Hearers Only”** of **the Word**

But **take** a **minute**

to **DO SOMETHING** – **in your heart** – **with God**
about **what** you’ve **heard today**

The **QUESTION** is

Are you giving to God what belongs to God, in your life?

& I **just want** you to **ask God** –

What does that MEAN, specifically, – in MY LIFE?

What does **that Mean** – for **Me Personally, God**

To **GIVE YOU** what **Belongs to you** – **in MY LIFE?**

& here is a Vs – to get you started – on the Answer

Romans 6:13 (NIV)

13 . . . offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Let's Pray

Can you just ask God – to reveal to you –
right now – BY His Holy Spirit

WHAT is it – In your life – that you may be
“Holding Back” from Giving to God?

Then talk to him about that
& make a commitment to him – about that

Develop into preparing for communion