

# **The Down To Earth Gospel: The Gospel & Politics**

## **Mark 12:13-17**

July 3-4, 2021 – Daniel Fender

### **What This Passage Is & Isn't Focused On**

1. Jesus Focuses this passage *NOT* primary on Politics but on People & Their Relationships With God
2. Politics is Important Because People are Important to God
3. Jesus has a Different Agenda than His Adversaries in Mark 12

### **Why It's Important to Jesus**

1. Jesus was Surrounded by Enemies (Mark 12:12)
2. Remember the Last Time the Herodians & Pharisees Combined Powers? (Mark 3:6)
3. Jesus Knew: The Image You Live by Forms You & Forms the Rest of Your Life

### **Why It's Important to Us**

1. In the Bible Image is Everything (Gen. 1:26-27; Col.1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10; 1 Cor. 15:49)
2. In Us is Both: The Hypocrisy of Humanity & The Heights of Humanity
3. We Have Both Sinned Against God, Yet, We Belong to God
4. Since You Belong to God You Should Give Yourself Back to God
5. How? — We Must See the Image of God in Jesus in order to Fully Reflect the Image of God in Our Lives & Politics

## **Community Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How important is it to discuss religion and politics? How often do you talk about religion and politics? How are religion and politics combined and how are they different?
2. Reread Mark 12:13-17. What was so dangerous about the trap set for Jesus in Mark 12:13-17? What if Jesus had said 'Yes'? What if Jesus had said 'No'?
3. What are healthy and unhealthy ways to engage in politics? How important is it for Christians to be involved in politics?
4. How can you better reflect Jesus' image when discussing politics? How can you discuss what you believe about God and Government but not fall into political traps and questions intended to undermine what you believe about God and the Gospel?