

— THE GOSPEL OF —
MARK
SUFFERING SERVANT & SON OF GOD

Mark 12:13-27



“I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer.

You are yourself the answer.

Before your face questions die away.

What other answer would suffice?”

C. S. Lewis

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



¹³ And they sent to him some of the **Pharisees** and some of the **Herodians**, **to trap him in his talk.** ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him. Mark 12:13-17

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **An unlikely alliance**

- **Pharisees**
- **Herodians**

⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Mark 3:5-6

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **An unlikely alliance**
 - Pharisees
 - Herodians

DISCUSSION:

- **Why was the partnership between the Pharisees and Herodians unusual?**
- **What does it say about the threat Jesus posed?**

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **Impures motive and flattery**

- “to trap him in his talk.”
- V. 14 – Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God.”

A Prayer: Jesus, I may not be trying to entrap you... But, I want the words I say to you and the words I say about you to be true and real in my heart. I want the words I say to you to reflect my commitment to you...

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **An impure motive and flattery**

- “to trap him in his talk.”
- V. 14 – Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God.”

- **DISCUSSION:**

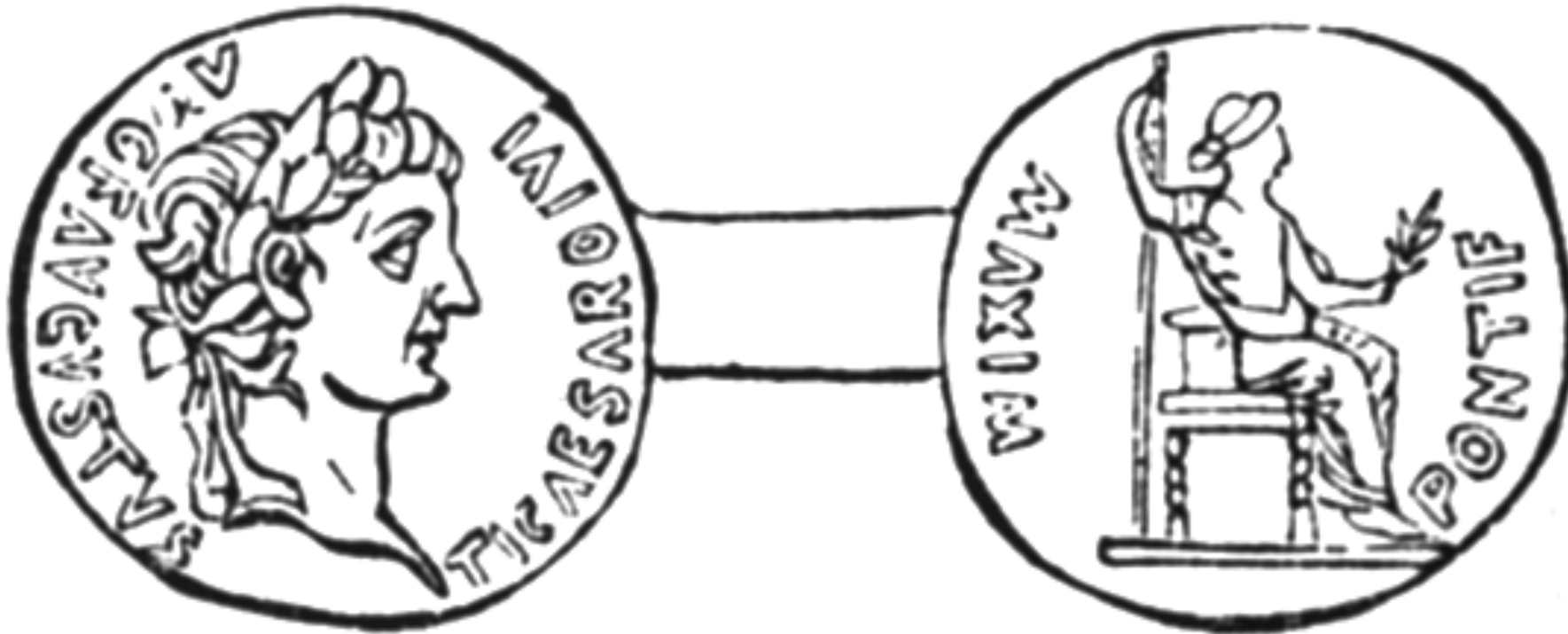
- **In what ways do we flatter people? What is good or bad about flattery?**
- **What does it take to speak the truth and avoid using flattery with people?**
- **Jesus “knew their hypocrisy” immediately. Where are you most at risk of saying the right things to God without meaning them deeply?**

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **A political and theological challenge**

- Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" v.14b

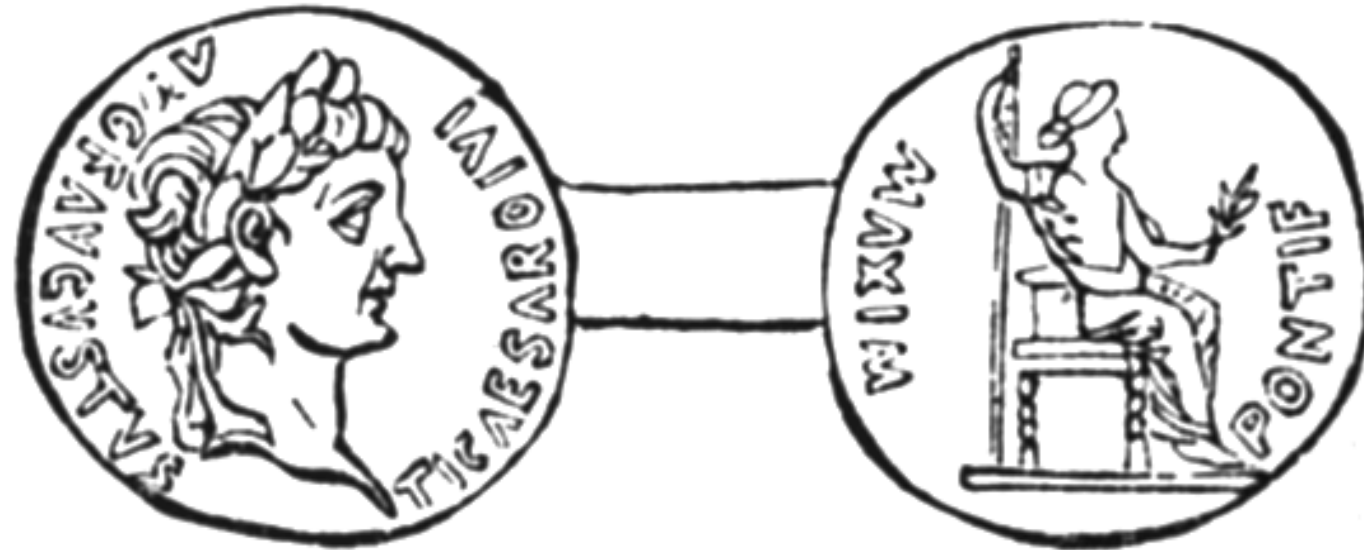


Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **A discerning response**

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Discussion:

- **What do you think Jesus wanted the Pharisees and Herodians to do?**
- **What belongs to God that we should give back to him?**

Question 1: Where does your loyalty lie?



- **Jesus has the final say**

“And they marveled at him.”

“It is appropriate that men who had come to ensnare Jesus through unguarded statements should sense the devastating effect of the authority displayed in his word.”

G. Kittel

DISCUSSION:

- **What does it look like for Jesus, not the world, to have final word in your life?**

Question 2: Doesn't the Word say?



¹⁸ And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. ²¹ And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. ²² And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”

Mark 12:18-23

Question 2: Doesn't the Word say?



- **Impure motive and ignorance...Again.**

¹⁸ And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us...

Discussion:

- **What misconceptions do people often have about God when the answers are found in scripture?**

Question 2: Doesn't the Word say?



- **Two counter questions**

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

- **Did you get this wrong because you don't know the scriptures?**

²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?
²⁷ He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

Question 2: Doesn't the Word say?



- **Two counter questions**

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

- **Or, did you get this wrong because you don't know the power of God?**

²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. Luke 20:36

Question 2: Doesn't the Word say?



- **Jesus has the final say**

²⁷ He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

³⁹ Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” ⁴⁰ For they no longer dared to ask him any question. Luke 20:39-40

Discussion:

- **What specifically can you do to prevent yourself from being “quite wrong” about what Jesus taught?**
- **Do you think you “know the scriptures” and “the power of God” in your life? What can you do to continue to mature in these areas of your Christian walk?**

Mark 12:13-27



Earthly powers demand coins. But when Jesus speaks, traps collapse and the enemy's deception dies. We must cling to the words of Jesus, committed to knowing the Word and living in His Power.