

A landscape photograph with a purple and orange color overlay. In the center, a small cross sits atop a hill. A dirt path leads from the bottom center towards the cross. The sky is a gradient of purple and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

Dual Citizenship

Mark 12:13-17

THE SERVANT: SAVING
MARK 

“But our citizenship is in heaven.”
Philippians 3:20



THE SERVANT: SAVING

12:13 Then they sent some of the
Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order
to trap Him in a statement.

14 They came and said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

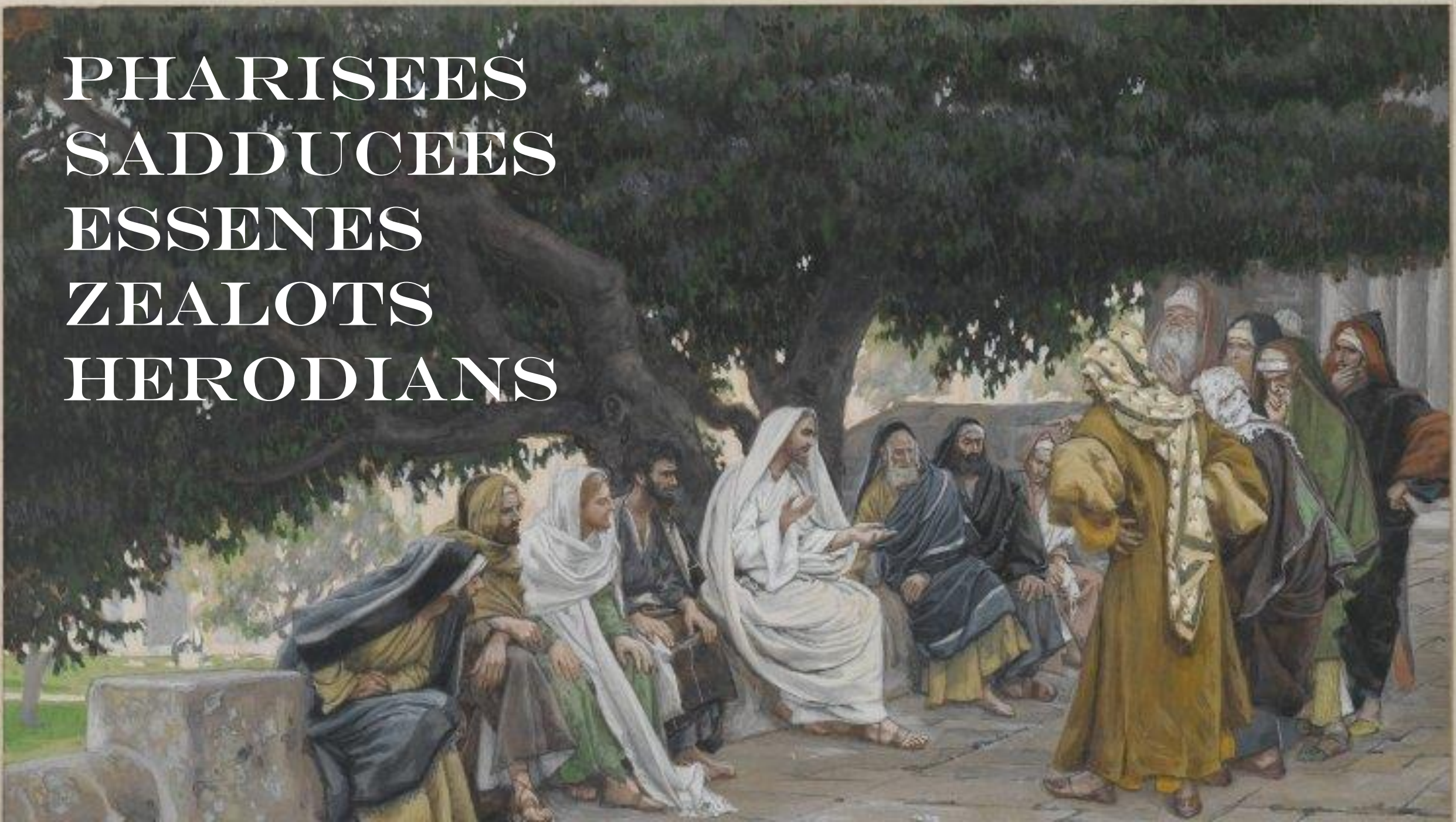


THE SERVANT: SAVING

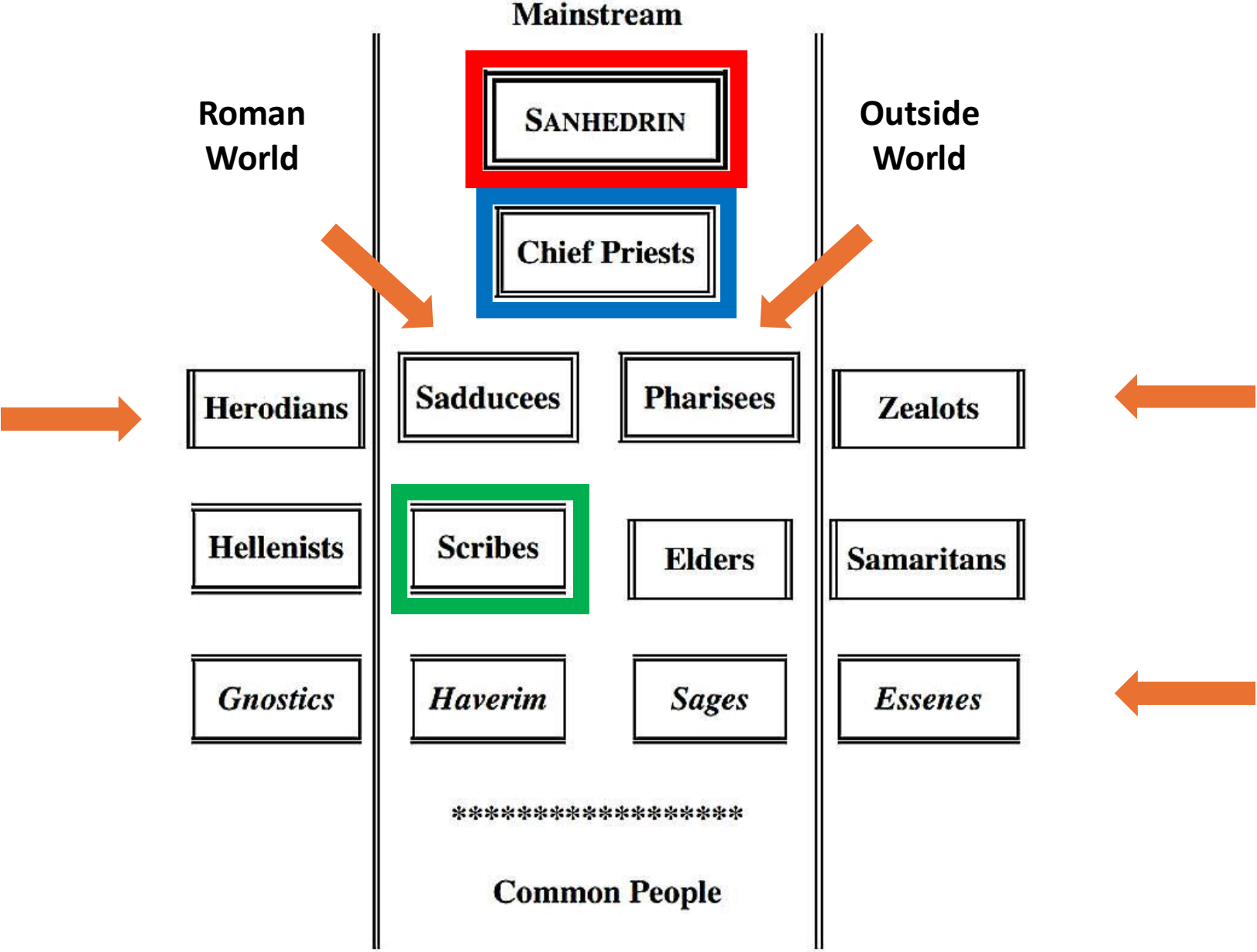
The Trap 13,14

- Odd Couple – strange pairing!
- Trap – ensnare
- Flattery – ‘we know’ – NOT!
 - ‘truthful’
 - ‘defer’
 - ‘partial’
 - ‘teach truth’

PHARISEES
SADDUCEES
ESSENES
ZEALOTS
HERODIANS



**Chart of Jewish Political and Religious Parties
in the Late Second Temple Period**



The Trap 13,14

- Odd Couple
- Trap – ensnare
- Flattery – ‘we know’ – NOT!
 - ‘truthful’
 - ‘defer’
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 - ‘teach truth’

***Are you still beating your wife? Yes
or No?***

***If 'no' then the Herodians would
prosecute - If 'yes' then the
Pharisees would persecute!***



THE SERVANT: SAVING

***“We must obey God
rather than men.”***

Acts 5:29



THE SERVANT: SAVING

12:15 Shall we pay or shall we not pay?”
But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to
them, “Why are you testing Me? Bring
Me a denarius to look at.”

16 They brought one. And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” And they said to Him, “Caesar’s.”

Denarius of Mark Antony and Octavian, struck at Ephesus in 41 BC



**Roman
Silver
Denarius**



The Test 15,16

- Shall we pay or not?
- ‘hypocrisy’ – not even carry ‘image’
- ‘testing’ – test for virtue or quality
- ‘likeness’ - εἰκών = icon (Gen 1)
- ‘inscription’ INRI at the Cross

***True devotion is not seen any
day – it is seen every day!***



THE SERVANT: SAVING

***“My memory is nearly gone.
But I remember two things:
that I am a great sinner,
and that Christ is a great Savior!”***

John Newton



THE SERVANT: SAVING

17 And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

The Truth 17

- ‘render’ – offer as tribute
- Return Caesar’s image to him
- Return God’s image to Him!
- Romans 12:1,2
- ‘amazed at Him’ – Luke 23:2?

***“Jesus is saying that we are citizens
of heaven and earth
at the same time.”***

Leon Morris



THE SERVANT: SAVING

We have dual citizenship

- As earth bound we live for Christ
- As heaven bound we long for Christ!

So earthly minded – no heavenly good!

***“I think the Church would do well to
be always living as if Christ might
come today.”***

C.H. Spurgeon



THE SERVANT: SAVING



THE SERVANT: SAVING MARK

