

Date: 9-24-17

Scripture: Mark 12:13-17

Message title: Ransom series - Image is everything

Recap of Mark:

- Mark, the author of this letter writes about Jesus' works and authority. What Jesus did, more than what Jesus said.
- “ Mark is the nearest approach we will ever possess to an eye witness account of the life of Jesus.” –**Barclay**
- Mark was a changed man! He was in awe and wonder of this Messiah King, Jesus and through this letter, he declares God's ultimate goal in coming...To serve!
- **45**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NASB)
- Jesus called the disciples. Now He is cultivating them. Soon He will challenge them.
- Jesus has been kicked out of the synagogue and is now ministering on seashores and streets. Then in Chapter 8 we see a shift in the language that Jesus would use with the disciples. He begins to talk about His ultimate mission. It was not to heal people, feed people, and cast out demons. His ultimate mission was the cross! Redemption for ALL mankind.
- At this point in the narrative, Jesus is days away from fulfilling His mission...Jesus is now in a sense being reviewed to see if He has a spot or a blemish. Questions? ?

Mark 12:13-17

“**They**” - Show picture Sanhedrin. Chief priest, scribes, elders.
(Sanhedrin) This group would be the equivalent to the parliament or supreme court. Just like modern politics there are two sharply opposing parties, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Now they band together and become partners in crime to eliminate Jesus.

Notice how they come to Jesus. Let's butter him up! ESV
12:14 “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully.

This was lip service! Jesus sees right through this. He sees their hypocrisy. **The Lord is not looking for lip service but heart service.**

Trying to trap Jesus, they ask this question...Is it lawful to pay the poll-tax to Ceaser or not?

- The world lawful in this context means an action that is appropriate or morally permissible with-in Jewish law.
- If Jesus answered yes, then this would put him on the side of the Herodians. This group only desired power and wealth.
- If Jesus answered no, then Jesus would affirm the position of the Pharisees who advocated complete separation for all gentiles.
- Three types of taxes that were imposed by the empire- A **ground tax** (a tenth of grain and a fifth of wine and fruit produced.) The **income tax** (one percent of a mans income) The **poll-tax** (woman 12-65 and men 14-65 were required to pay one denarius for simply existing) A denarius was a days wage.
- So what does Jesus do as He is trying to be manipulated & trapped? He exercised perfect wisdom. (He did what the Father told him to do.)

Vs 15- Jesus says..."bring me a denarius."

- Observation: Jesus didn't have much of anything. Not even a days wage! Jesus knew that His Father would be His provider. Jesus knew that He was just passing through as a sojourner. He lived a life of simplicity!
- Oh how complicated we have made life. We think righteousness and blessedness is equal to how much we have! **If you have the entire world and don't have Jesus, you have NOTHING!!**

Show image Coin: Image of Tiberious Caesar who was the emperor of Rome during this time.

- A coin was a sign of power.
- A coin would validate a Kings power.
- A coin was considered the Kings personal property. The Kings **image** and **NAME** would be stamped into the metal, thus signifying who it belonged to.

Vs:16-17

- God has ordained (established) the state and government. We are commanded by the LORD to respect the office of government. Jesus validates that truth in this text. "Give to Caesar what is Caesars."
- Governments are set up to protect and bring harmony to a nation. Without law there would be total chaos and lawlessness.
- **EJ Goodspeed** wrote, "*It was the glory of the Roman Empire that it brought peace to a troubled world. Under its sway the regions of Asia minor and the east enjoyed security and tranquility to an extent and for a length of time unknown before end probably since.*"

- There was harmony because there was order. Many people have a problem with this. We have a problem with governmental authority.
- I had a problem with this at a young age and at still am tempted to fall into a spirit of anarchy. Share only rebellion and dealing with taxes.
- Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. (Romans 13:1-2 NLT)
- **NOTE:**The only time that we get to choose not to submit to government is when it goes against what the bible teaches. Same in marriage as well...
- I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. 2Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. (2 Tim 2:1-2)
- Not only did I have a problem giving and submitting to the government and authority in my life. I had a problem giving and submitting God. **God calls us to choose that which will rule and be the King of our heart...wealth or righteousness.**
- I had a jaded, unbiblical view of what giving and submitting to God really looked like. God doesn't want our money, He wants a relationship!
- I thought giving to God was \$20 in the offering plate and I thought submitting to God was going to church on Sunday twice a year. Why? That is how I was raised. I never read the bible myself...

- Once we read God's word, we begin to understand God's heart for giving...God gave it ALL! When our perspective is correct about money, then we will handle it differently.
- God calls us to give cheerfully from our heart! (2 Cor 9:6-7) God blesses generosity.
- **Most people will never have freedom in their finances, because the focus is on the money and not on the Master Jesus Christ!**

T-Jesus says who's image is on the coin...What if Jesus asked us today, who's image is on the Christian? When Jesus looks at us, what does He see? Is it the image of the latest trend, the newest gadget, or the most popular song on the radio? "Image is everything."

Something that is true not only for the Christian but every human being is that... 1) We are made in the image of God.

- We have a divine image stamped on us in **three ways**.
 - **Mentally** - We can reason and choose. This is a reflection of God's intellect and freedom. (ability to create, paint, write book, write music)
 - **Morally**- There is a trace of our original state of innocence and righteousness written on our conscience.
 - **Socially**- We were created for fellowship. This reflects God's trine nature and His love. Adam fellowship with God in Eden. God creates woman...Why? He didn't want man to be alone.
- "Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-27 NIV)

If we choose to repent and turn to the Lord, we become one of His children (A christian). Relationship.

- 2) We are God's personal property!
- Just like the King in power (Caesar) that had minted money. It belonged to him and it was his personal property. In the same way, we are God's own possession, and we belong to Him!
- Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were **bought at a price**. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV)
- We were purchased and now belong to the LORD. He doesn't do regifts! He doesn't do returns! **He says, you are mine...Paid in full!!**
- 3) We validate who the king of our heart is to our world by the way we live.
- **DL Moody** Said that, *"every bible should be bound in shoe leather."*
- You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We have the privilege of sharing the greatest story ever told to our world! We can shine into the darkness, the light of Christ! (PR. Dark)

Close:

Notice what the scripture says about these men that tried to trap Jesus...They were amazed at Him!

If we as God's own possession, His kids, obey His voice, submit to His leading, people will start to consider the reality of our declaration.

cont...

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men **who had been with Jesus**. (Acts 4:13 NLT)

When we spend time with Jesus, His Spirit (Holy Spirit) works in us and then through us to reach those who are far from God and stranded in sin!

Essentially we become an extension of heaven, to our hurting world!

Let's pray

Salvation

Lets give to God what is Gods...

Song -"We surrender all to you....Do what you want to."

START >>>