



This week's sermon
Of Death and Taxes
Mark 12:13-27

1. Jesus teaches His followers to look at the big picture.
2. God sets the authority of Government under the authority of God.
3. People who know the Bible can misunderstand it.
4. People misunderstand truth because they doubt God's power.
5. There is a resurrection.
6. You cannot outsmart Jesus.

Digging Deeper into the Message

“Meditate on the kindness and the patience of Jesus to doubters. Peter doubts, and Jesus reaches out his hands.” - John Piper, Battling Doubt and Cynicism in Our Bible Reading
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/battling-doubt-and-cynicism-in-our-bible-reading>

Based on the above article, consider the following ways to build your faith:

1. **Pray for help.** Look up Mark 14:28 and reflect on the prayer the father prayed.
2. **See Beauty.** Read John 20: 24-29. As you read scripture, look for how you can see Jesus’ love and character shining through the way He is described and how he interacts.
3. **Consider God’s mercy for doubters.** Read Matthew 14: 22-33 and notice the response of Jesus to someone who is doubting.
4. **Find Encouragement.** Take a look at Hebrews 3:7-8 and 13: 7-9 and write out how you can apply them.
5. **Lean on others.** How does 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 describe how believers should view and care for each other? Is there someone in your life that you can support or do you need to seek support?
6. **Don’t stop reading.** Read Romans 10:14-17 and Psalm 1:1-3. What directives do you find for building faith? Pray about how to apply these.

Community Group

Icebreaker: What is the most embarrassing fashion trend that you used to look great in? (Or at least you thought you looked great in.)

Discussion Questions:

Read Mark 12:13-21. How do you imagine Jesus’ demeanor as he responds to His questioners?

Read the first MAP point. In what way has God opened your eyes to see the big picture? How does that give you more peace?

Read the next MAP point. Pastor Mike mentioned that this concept helped Americans develop the “establishment clause,” which prevents the government from establishing a religion or unduly favoring one. What are your thoughts on this?

Read the third MAP point. What can we do to guard against this?

Read the next point. Tell about a time you saw God do something that was unexpected and how it affected your faith.

The fifth point states there is a resurrection. Did you ever think differently about the “afterlife”? How does the Bible’s description offer hope? (Revelation 21:1-4)

Read the last MAP point. Pastor Mike mentioned some really good questions people have as they struggle with Jesus’ claims. What doubts or questions do you or someone near you have? How can the group help?

Application: Take a doubt or question from the group and study it. (Books at the Harvest store or websites like carm.org or gotquestions.org can be of help.)