



John 8:32
...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

False Dilemma
A rhetorical trap used in public debate to create a difficult choice between two equally undesirable alternatives.

The **horns of a dilemma** are the two choices

False Dilemma

Split the horns of a false dilemma to reveal God's way.

Mark 12:13-17

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. 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?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."

Mark 12:13-17

And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." 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.

Characters

Characters	Description
Herodians	Jews who combine Jewish religion and Greek culture -friendly to King Herod. Soldiers/Officials of Herod - Mark 12
Pharisees	Believed in the Written (Torah) and oral law
Caesar	Caesar is emperor of Rome
Crowd	Jews who seek the true messiah

1. Call out the trap

Mark 12:13-17

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are about anyone's opinion. You do not judge by appearances, but truly by what is hidden. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."

Call Out a False Dilemma

“That’s a false dilemma between _____ or _____

I’m not going for either of those choices.”



False Dilemma

Split the horns of a false dilemma to reveal God’s way.

1. Call out the trap
2. Split the horns by demonstrating love

Mark 12:13-17

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Denarius: Image and Inscription



Inscription: Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus
Opposite side: Livia as Pax, a roman god

Exodus 20:4-5

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God...

Mark 12:13-17

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



Jesus Corrects With Love

Characters	Correction
Herodians	Worshipping Caesar as a god breaks the 2nd Commandment and is idolatry
Pharisees	Love of money is a form of Idolatry
Caesar	Caesar deserves taxes but is not God
Crowd	Worship God, respect your government



Science is Catching Up

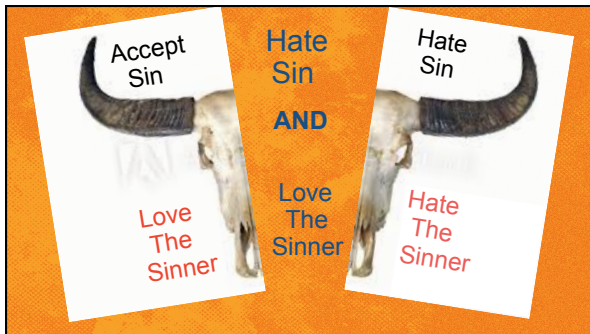
“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Robert Jastrow,
Astronomer, Founding Director
NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies,

Lovers of Truth

“As Christians we should be lovers of truth. So seize opportunities to learn from both theology and science—while worshiping the God of all truth.”

-Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg
“Does Science Contradict Scripture”



False Dilemma

Split the horns of a false dilemma to reveal God's way.

1. Call out the trap
2. Split the horns by demonstrating love
3. Honor Where Honor is Due

Romans 13:5-7

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



FAKE NEWS
LIES OF THE ENEMY
