



SESSION 3

Render Unto Caesar?



YES • NO • MAYBE

NOTES

1. I pay too much for taxes.
2. I feel like I pay more taxes than the value of services that I get in return.
3. Less than 50% of the people in my life are hypocrites.
4. I become suspicious when people overly compliment me.
5. Paying tithes and offerings are like paying taxes to God.

DIG DEEP

HYPOCRISY IN THE CHURCH?

- Have you ever experienced hypocrisy in the church? What happened?

READ Mark 12:13-17 (NIV)

13 Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. 14 They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? 15 Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." 16 They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

A TRAP IS SET:

- ∞ Who are the people asking the question?
- ∞ What do they say about Jesus and his character?

∞ What is their question?

THE REASONS WHY THEY CONSIDERED THIS UNANSWERABLE:

- Who would be angered by a “yes”?
- Who would be angered by a “no”?

JESUS' RESPONSE:

- (Mark 12:15,16)

∞ The ultimate turn: “Bring me a denarius.”

◦ Exposing the hypocrisy

- (Mark 12:17)

∞ What do you think it means to “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”?

∞ In today’s politically tense climate, how are God’s people supposed to respond to governmental leadership?

∞ What does it mean to “give to God what is God’s”?

UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE IMAGE ON A COIN MEANT

- The Roman’s understanding of coinage.
 - ∞ What image was on a denarius?

READ Genesis 1:26,27.

- Like a coin, we have been stamped with the image of God. About the denarius, Jesus asked, “Who’s image is this? And whose inscription? Which brings up the questions:
 - ∞ How are we stamped with the image of God?

•Hebrews 10:16 and Jeremiah 31:33

∞ Whose inscription has been written upon us, and what does it say about God?

MY PRAYERS

1. In what areas of my life am I not giving to God what is God’s?
2. What image of God am I presenting as I circulate as His “coin”?
3. How can I improve on how I am “giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s”?