



"Jesus and \$\$\$\$\$???"

Luke 20:19-26 (Coin for taxes) / Luke 21:1-4 (Coins for worship)

** Luke 20:19-20 – Last week's story about the Vineyard...these people wanted Jesus arrested because He told a story about them! So, instead of being able to get Him arrested...they try trapping Him to commit a crime! These are evil people for sure!

- Notice verse 20 – "Watching for their opportunity, the leaders sent spies **PRETENDING to be honest men.**" (And we wonder why Jesus told last week's story about them **LOL**)
- This is crazy! They were so desperate to kill Him, yet they could not find ONE THING wrong against Jesus to accuse Him! Not one!

1. Don't try to trap Jesus when it comes to \$\$\$\$\$ or anything...He invented it all!

- Psalm 24:1 – Everything is His because He created it!
- Luke 20:21-22 – Taxes! (But, look at how they said "we know you teach the way of God truthfully...") What a bunch of liars! If they thought that for real...they would not be doing this!
- Verse 23 – "He saw through their trickery" / Trickery = witchcraft & deception!
- The Roman governor = Pilate! Pilate was in town for the coming Passover Feast.
- They knew that the governor would have the power to do something to Jesus if they could trap Jesus with something against their own Jewish laws and the Roman laws.
- **But, what is the real issue?** Is it the money that pays the taxes? Even though the Pharisee's and Herodian's were very GREEDY...the TRAP was "unlawful worship!"
- They were trying to trap Jesus with Exodus 20:3-6 – The Ten Commandments!
- They reject that Jesus is the Creator and that they are to actually worship Him!!!
- Luke 20:24-25
- The image on the coin was one of the main reasons the Jews hated the tax poll! They claimed that it was a violation of the Ten Commandments because it had the IMAGE of Caesar on it. Yet...they had no problem spending the money on themselves!
- I understand one side of the coin (no pun intended LOL) because Caesar claimed deity...to be a god. So, the paying of taxes to Caesar would be UNLAWFUL WORSHIP by the Jews that equal idolatry. Yet, look at what Jesus says...
- Luke 20:25 – "Pay and give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, AND pay and give to God what belongs to God!"

- Jesus showed them that **ALL CITIZENS** have duties to the secular state, as well as **COMMANDS** from God to God! He recognized and told them the **legitimate** difference between the two and to do both!
- **Luke 20:26** – “He silenced them!” They were not able to trap Him!

****We all do not like to pay taxes...especially property taxes!** It is what it is right now.

- It is not real fun to think that from January – April your entire income and work is taxes! Then you live off of May – December! **Think about that!**
- Then, there are some of you here today are also faithful in returning to God what His Word says about money...the **First Fruit** (10%), and different offerings like Missions, Building for the Future, Flood Victims, Shoes etc.... **AND you still are blessed and doing well AFTER that!** **Think about that one!** *This shows a deep trust in the Word of God!*
- You are talking upwards of **25% to 30%** doing both things that Jesus tells you and I to do! We live in the most blessed country, and we are able to have food, clothing, hot water, vehicles, a home and on and on!
- Jesus speaks the truth when He says do what I ask throughout my Word!
- I’m reminded this morning of David as he wrote **Psalm 37:25!**
- **Beth and I**, have been paying our taxes since 1994, and giving our 10% and offerings since 1994 together to the church! **We have not once seen God ever fail us...not once!**
- Yes, there were tight and tough times over the years, (*especially in AR during our first YP job...God provided Nancy and Subway!*) but not once did we not make it!
- **God is FAITHFUL! Jesus asks all of us to HONOR Him!** Jesus makes it very clear here in Luke 20 **to do** what is in place both on taxes and our worship to God!
- If you **CHEAT** on either of these two areas...taxes or worship to God, you are violating the direct words of Jesus...**you are actually entrapping yourself!**
- **Cutting a corner with Jesus is not a short cut...it is a sin!**
- Whether you like it or not!
- I’m sure that all of us at one time or another have been **TEMPTED** to be dishonest in these areas! **Why?** We fight the temptation to have more and not remaining **CONTENT** with what God has provided us.
- Is there anything wrong with having more than you did 10 years ago? A raise? A Bonus? Another nicer vehicle? A home? **Absolutely not! Work hard!!!**
- But, it is when our hearts are trying to find short cuts for gain by going against the words of Jesus! It is a **HEART ISSUE 100%! Don’t TRAP yourself by cheating!**

Closing: What is it that Jesus wants from us in our heart of giving? What attitude?

- **Luke 21:1-4**
- **Verse 3** – “this poor widow has **GIVEN MORE** than the rest of them.”
- **Verse 4** – “*tiny surplus vs. giving everything!*”
- **The very FIRST Command** that Jesus tells us to fulfill is **Mark 12:30!**
- When this is being lived out...then **ALL AREAS** will not short cut God in your life!
- Your giving! Your prayer time! Your Bible time! Your Church attendance! You not being lazy and being on time to things! **ALL AREAS of LIFE!**