



## LESSON 127 MARK 12:13-17

**And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words. And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.**

Notice the words: And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians...There was another group behind these men, instigating this move against Jesus. In Matt 22:15, we find that the leaders were Pharisees. In the Luke 20:19-20, we realize the chief priests and scribes, those who should have been the most godly, were behind this attempt to trap Jesus. Lk 20:19-20 And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them. And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

The Herodians were a faction of influential Jews, who were supporters of the king, Herod Antipas, who was a son of Herod the Great, who had reigned many years before, at the time when Jesus was born. Unlike the Pharisees, the Herodians were pro-Roman sympathizers, so for the Pharisees and Herodians to be aligned was unheard of, except in their hatred of Jesus. Remember in Mark 3:6, these two groups joined forces to try to destroy Jesus. (Jesus later warned His disciples about these groups and their wrong teachings in Mark 8 :15.)

In Mark 12:13-17, the Pharisees and Herodians wanted to entrap Jesus with His words and get Him in trouble with the Romans. By doing so, they hoped the Romans would get rid of Jesus for them.

Note what these men said about Jesus in verse 14: "they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth:..."Whether trying to flatter Him into indiscretion or not, the speakers described Jesus truthfully. Jesus was impartial in telling the truth. Like His Father, He was no respecter of persons. 2 Chronicles 19:7 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts (D: as bribes). Jesus gave out the truth directed by the Holy Spirit, regardless of the wealth, prestige or position of those who heard.

Do you find yourself being a respecter of persons? Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God...Jesus spoke the truth whether He was addressing the rich or the poor, the

powerful or the powerless. He didn't seek approval from the rich by flattery, nor did He speak disparagingly to the poor because they had no influence. He didn't change the words His Father gave Him, in order to gain support from the Pharisees. He graciously spoke the truth He was given from His Father, knowing those words were life to the people who would heed them. John 12:49-50 ...the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak... whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. John 6:63 the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life...John 17:14,17 I have given them thy word; ...Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

### **Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give?**

The Pharisees didn't care about Caesar or whether he was getting the proper tribute money from them. They weren't seeking godly advice about their finances. They simply wanted to catch Jesus in His response and get Him in trouble with the government. Notice the phrase "But he, knowing their hypocrisy..."(In the Matt 22:18 account, it says ..."He perceived their wickedness...") Jesus wasn't fooled by this group's remarks. "Why tempt ye me?" He asked this rhetorical question, not expecting an answer, but to show that He was aware of their trickery and desire to do Him evil. He knew their hearts, yet He answered their question. Jesus asked for a penny. (One of the disciples was chosen treasurer of the followers of Jesus and kept their money. Judas was the treasurer near the time of the crucifixion, but Philip may have been at the time of the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:5-7, Mark 6:37).

And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. Jesus responded wisely. In one sentence He moved them from their focus on tricking Him to them being confronted with their obligation to God.

In Whose image are you made? To Whom do you belong? Rom 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**2 Cor 3:18... we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

**1 Cor 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**

Render ... to God the things that are God's. You belong to God. You are being changed into His image in the process of this life until you are resurrected, at which time you will be like Jesus. 1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Are you giving yourself to the Lord each day, starting with a prayer of dedication of yourself to the Lord and His will? Is it your desire to bless the Lord with your life every day?

Lord, I want to honor and bless You. By my thoughts, and words, and deeds each day I want to please You. I want to render unto You the things that are Yours, most of all, myself. I cannot do this on my own. I must have the guidance and direction of Your Holy Spirit each day, which You

have promised to me in Ps 73:23-25 Thou hast held me by my right hand. Thou shall guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee... and in John 16:15-16 when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me (Jesus)...I will listen and obey Your Holy Spirit each day (Hebrews 3:7), so that He may conform me to the lovely image of Your wonderful Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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