

The Gospel According to Luke

WHOSE ARE YOU?

PART 11

The God you serve

READ: LUKE 20:19-26

INTRODUCTION

The Jewish leaders were always keen on trying to trap Jesus in His words. They looked for reasons to try and devalue what He had to say to the people because, if they could claim hypocrisy on His part, they would be able to throw out His rebukes concerning them. This is similar in our world today. There has always been an effort to try and disprove some aspect of the Word of God in order to disregard the changes that He requires us to make. Jesus was used to it but it often will catch us off guard if we are not careful. This becomes very key to studying Scripture and the various proofs that are available so that we do not have a blind faith but an informed one. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

The question of “should we pay taxes” has lasted even to the day we live in now. There is a desire to not give money that God has given us to various governments that we may disagree with. This is not what Jesus says here to these leaders. Jesus wants us to give over what the world wants in order to glorify Him more. This is not to say that someone who pays the appropriate tax amount is more holy but that Jesus’ focus is not on earthly wealth or goods. He is always concerned about what will make us more like Him. That means understanding that men will want things that glorify men but God wants what will glorify Him.

Jesus makes an interesting statement when He asks about the image that is on the coin. (vs 24) The image is that of Caesar. A coin that is inscribed with any image is not an image bearer of God. Humans are image bearers and we are to remember that on a daily basis. We do not bear the image of any ruler other than (hopefully) Christ. We are to bear His image and render to Him what is His; our lives. Money is perishable and changing but our soul will go on for eternity whether in Heaven or Hell. This means that the government can have their taxes but my life should be dedicated to the One who created me, God. (Romans 12:1-2)

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was it so important for the Jewish leaders to try and catch Jesus in His words? Have you ever had someone try to do the same to you? How did you handle that?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What do these verses say about studying about Christ? How can we better study and be informed to give an answer when someone asks?
3. Should you pay taxes? What does Jesus say? Why do you think people have a hard time paying taxes even today?
4. Why is Jesus more concerned with our holiness than our finances? Do you think finances and holiness converge? How so?
5. Read Romans 12:1-2. What do these verses mean when looking at rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's? How can we better live as a sacrifice daily?

WRAP UP

It is important to remember two things about this exchange that Jesus had. 1. Jesus knew that they were trying to trap Him and He was able to draw their attention to something more important. 2. The hearts of men regularly do not desire the things of God and so money and earthly gain become the primary focus for many. We must look to God and die to ourselves daily so that we might experience a closer relationship with Him.