

“TAXATION IS THEFT (?)”

Mark 12:13-17

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. How did the Sanhedrin respond to Jesus’ parable? (vv. 13-14)

“They sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians.”

“to trap him in his talk”

“you are true... truly teach the way of God.”

“do not care about anyone’s opinion ... not swayed by appearances”

“Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

Unbelief seeks to _____ Jesus in _____ dilemmas.

Luke 2:1-2; 20:20

Acts 5:37

“The ideology behind this was that if Israel was a theocracy, paying taxes to Caesar was treasonous.” -Mark Strauss

II. How is Jesus’ character revealed in His response? (vv. 14-17)

“the way, the truth and the life.”

“Why put me to the test?”

“Bring me a denarius ... whose likeness and inscription is this?”

“Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God...”

Jesus reveals His unbending _____ to _____ & _____.

John 14:6
Romans 13:6-7

"He is everything they say he is."

-Mark Strauss

"He put the question of living under Caesar in its proper place: a distant second behind the more important question of living in the kingdom of God."

-Sinclair Ferguson

III. How do I render to Caesar and God what are theirs? (vv. 17)

"Render to Caesar"

"Render ... to God"

Unbending commitment to Jesus includes submission to _____ & _____.

Genesis 1:26-27
Psalms 24:1
Ephesians 4:24
Colossians 3:10
Hebrews 1:3

"But no Caesar can save us, and we are free from having to give them more than what they are owed- namely, respect and conditional obedience." -Mike McKinley

"The man who is devoted to God does not make the issue of his political freedom the number one priority in his life."

-Sinclair Ferguson

"When we perform our duty towards men, we thereby render obedience to God."

-John Calvin

"The amount of it therefore is, that those who destroy political order are rebellious against God, and therefore, that obedience to princes and magistrates is always joined to the worship and fear of God; but that, on the other hand, if princes claim any part of the authority of God, we ought not to obey them any farther than can be done without offending God."

-John Calvin

BIG IDEA: Faith in Christ produces unbending commitment to God.