

01/24/2021

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THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

LUK 20:19-22 MAT 22:18-21  
DOES ANYONE LIKE TAXES?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. There is a saying that, "Church and politics don't mix".

1. Also known as the "separation of church and state".
  - a) And yet He purposefully planted Himself right in the middle of a time of religious and political turmoil and great corruption on both sides.
  - b) The Christians at the time found themselves trying to live in two worlds:
    - (1) They were "in the world". There was no getting out of that except for death.
    - (2) And yet Jesus turned that world upside down as He taught about the kingdom of God!
  - c) This concept might have been more difficult to understand not too long ago, but I think it has become very clear that we are in the same situation of trying to navigate between two worlds.
2. It is important to remember that *"Jesus was not a socialist. Jesus was not a Republican or a Democrat. In fact, the politics of Jesus transcend any human political party or idea. No political platform or ideology can truly solve mankind's problems. The deepest issues facing humanity are spiritual in nature and will require spiritual solutions"*. (<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/god/who-is-jesus/the-politics-of-jesus/>)

B. **Romans 3:10–18 (NKJV) — 10** As it is written: **"There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."** **13** **"Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

1. The apostle Paul is quoting **Psalms 14** and it is a good reminder that no human being is perfect!
  - a) And we often find ourselves having to pick between the lesser of two evils!
  - b) There is only one Savior and that is Jesus Christ.
    - (1) And as you might imagine - as He inserted Himself in the middle of these two worlds, He became a threat.
      - (a) And it wasn't long before there were those who wanted Him dead.

II. **LUKE 20:19–22 (NKJV) — 19** AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES THAT VERY HOUR SOUGHT TO LAY HANDS ON HIM, BUT THEY FEARED THE PEOPLE—FOR THEY KNEW HE HAD SPOKEN THIS PARABLE AGAINST THEM. **20** SO THEY WATCHED HIM, AND SENT SPIES WHO PRETENDED TO BE RIGHTEOUS, THAT THEY MIGHT SEIZE ON HIS WORDS, IN ORDER TO DELIVER HIM TO THE POWER AND THE AUTHORITY OF

THE GOVERNOR. **21** THEN THEY ASKED HIM, SAYING, “TEACHER, WE KNOW THAT YOU SAY AND TEACH RIGHTLY, AND YOU DO NOT SHOW PERSONAL FAVORITISM, BUT TEACH THE WAY OF GOD IN TRUTH: **22** IS IT LAWFUL FOR US TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR OR NOT?”

A. TAXES!! We can relate.....right?

1. I do not know of anyone who like taxes!
  - a) Here is a great financial tip. Never spend more than you make!
    - (1) If we run our households like that we will soon find ourselves in great trouble because we have little control over our income.
    - (2) This doesn't seem to apply to the government though.
      - (a) They can increase their income any time they want by simply making you pay for it - by raising your taxes.
  - b) I don't think that anyone of us would mind a reasonable tax if the governments checkbook balanced, but it doesn't.
    - (1) According to WIKIPEDIA – “As of August 31, 2020, ....total national debt of \$26.70 trillion. At the end of 2020, .... approximately 37% of the debt held by the public was owned by foreigners”.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_debt\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States)
      - (a) The numbers were different in Jesus' time but the sentiment was the same!

B. There are a few things in these 4 verses that I would like to point out before we move on.

1. We know that they wanted to kill Jesus but were afraid of the crowds that loved Him.
2. We know that they are evil with evil intentions.
  - a) Matthew tells us: **Matthew 22:15–16 (NKJV) — 15** Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might *entangle* Him in *His* talk. **16** And they sent to Him their disciples with the *Herodians*, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.
  - b) According the book “Manners & Customs of the Bible” *The Herodians were more a political than religious party.* <sup>1</sup> *They were Jews who attached themselves to the political fortunes of the Herodian family, hoping thereby to promote the interests of the Jewish people.* <sup>2</sup>
    - (1) There is even speculation that Herodians were Sadducees – who did not believe in the resurrection.
      - (a) So this is a little “mob” **who pretended to be righteous** to put Jesus in a weird spot.
        - (i) How so? Well, if He sided with the Jews they could get Him for treason.
        - (ii) If He sided with the government – the tide of Jewish public opinion would turn on Him.
          - (a) They thought they had Him!

### III. **MATTHEW 22:18 (NKJV) — 18** BUT JESUS PERCEIVED THEIR WICKEDNESS, AND

<sup>1</sup> Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). *Manners & customs of the Bible* (p. 459). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). *Manners & customs of the Bible* (p. 459). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

## SAID, “WHY DO YOU TEST ME, YOU HYPOCRITES?”

### A. “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?” - to seduce - to be tempted to sin!

1. Jesus is very calculated in His response. **James 3:4–10 (NKJV) — 4** Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6** And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **8** But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.
  - a) Knowing that we stumble in many things **6** And that the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity, we too need to be **James 1:19–20 (NKJV) — 19** ....swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; **20** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
    - (1) Thinking before we speak is not a novel idea – but often we ignore this.
      - (a) In our current world situation – there are a lot of angry people. May we not be in that group!

## IV. CONCLUSION

- A. **Mat 22:19-21 (NKJV) — 19 Show Me the tax money.”** So they brought Him a denarius. **20** And He said to them, “**Whose image and inscription is this?**” **21** They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**”
  1. *Essentially, Jesus said “You recognize Caesar’s civil authority when you use his coins, therefore you are obliged to pay him the taxes he asks for.”* David Guzik’s Commentary
  2. It is important to note, so that we do not think that Jesus took this too lightly - that coin was, ...lay(ing) on the very hand that would soon be pierced by the government of Caesar. Jesus understood this very well. David Guzik’s Commentary
    - a) We use the government’s systems and resources on a daily basis, if they ask us to pay taxes for that, we have no choice!
      - (1) We may not like it but we have no choice – we must pay Caesar what is Caesar’s!
        - (a) But let’s not stop there – He doesn’t
- B. **And render to God the things that are God’s.**
  1. We live and function in a world that is not ours. For all intents and purposes, from a Godly viewpoint it is all fake, propped up by power and printing more money.

- a) Let us not put too much stock into this world and forget that we are citizens of heaven.
- b) Let us not trust in any government to rescue us.
- c) And let us not trust in any man to be our savior.
- d) It is important to remember that *Jesus was not a socialist. Jesus was not a Republican or a Democrat.*
  - (1) He is a whole new thing in an imperfect world!
- e) And may we never forget to **render to God the things that are God's**