



message notes

date May 18 & 19
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"It's a Trap!"
Mark 12:13-17

Big Question: What is my civic duty on earth as a citizen of the kingdom of God?

The Sanhedrin attempts to trap Jesus deceptively and aggressively.

v 13 *Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.*

- "Sent" – A very specific purpose.
- "Catch him" - violent pursuit, like trapping an animal.

A deceitful monologue

v 14 *They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth."*

An incriminating question

v 15 *"Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?"*

The question they are REALLY after: "What are your politics?"

Jesus' response captures our civic responsibility as citizens of the kingdom of God.

v 15-17 *But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*

Whose picture is on the coin?

- Latin "TI CAESAR DIVI AVG F AVGVSTVS" – "Tiberius Caesar, the son of the divine Augustus"
- Greek "Theos Sebastos Kaisar" – "God, Augustus, Caesar".

Give to Caesar (government) "what it's owed."

Give to God what is God's.

Living scared and angry - Ephesians 4:26-27

"Do not be afraid" – 70 times in the scriptures.

Philippians 3:17-21 Our citizenship is in heaven

The kingdom of God transcends partisan politics.

My Christian identity informs my civic responsibility, and not the other way around.