

THE CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATIONS

--MARK 12:13-17--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning, we return to the book of Mark. Let me remind you of where we left off. Jesus Christ has come to Jerusalem and what is called Passion Week has begun. This week began with the Triumphal Entry on Monday. Tuesday morning Jesus cleansed the Temple court of the Gentiles, Wednesday morning when they arrived in the Temple complex a delegation from the Sanhedrin approached Jesus to learn where His authority had come from in a hope to trap Him in His words so they could arrest Him. He turned their trap on them and left them silenced and humiliated. He then told them and the crowd the judgment parable of the wicked vine-growers and the delegation from the Sanhedrin slunk away knowing that the parable was spoken against them. It is still Wednesday of Passion Week and Jesus is still in the Temple complex teaching the people.

- I. THE PHARISEES' AND HERODIANS' TRAP (Mark 12:13-15a)
- There are two very different _____ in the world that can bind people together.
 - This is the case with the _____ and the Herodians that are key to this morning's message. (Mark 3:6)
 - As they came together again now in Jerusalem they recognized that _____ was not an easy target, that He was a formidable opponent.
 - Our passage begins by saying, "*Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to _____ Him in a statement.*" (Mark 12:13, NASB95)
 - Listen to their _____ as they approached Jesus, they wanted to appear as innocent inquirers.
 - Then they asked their loaded question: "*Is it _____ to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay or shall we not pay?*" (Mark 12:14b-15a, NASB95)
 - His _____ waited anxiously for Him to answer.

- Jesus was fully aware of the _____ and the hypocrisy of this delegation before Him.
- Jesus examined the _____, then as He held up the coin, silence must have fallen across the court to hear what He was going to say.
- Jesus' enemies thought that they had caught Jesus in an inescapable _____. (Colossian 2:3)
- This statement by the Lord Jesus was not only astounding on the day that He uttered it, but it still is today as it reveals Jesus' mind concerning human _____.

II. THE CHRISTIAN'S EARTHLY/TEMPORAL OBLIGATION (Mark 12:17a)

- Jesus Christ's statement first set out the shape of the Christian's earthly or temporal _____.
- Not only is the state valid but it also makes legitimate claims on our _____. (Romans 13:1)
- The point that Jesus is making in our passage in Mark, is that, noting the exceptions I just mentioned, Christians are called to a profound _____ to their government. (1st Timothy 2:1-2)

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S HEAVENLY/ETERNAL OBLIGATION (Mark 12:17b)

- By saying we are to give or render "*to God the things that are God's,*" (Mark 12:17b, NASB95) Jesus clearly stated that there is only one _____, thus removing Caesar's claim to divinity.
- Next, Jesus' call to render "*to God the things that are God's*" (Mark 12:17b, NASB95) subtly stated God's claim to total _____ of us all. (Genesis 1:27)
- We are God's coin. We bear His _____.

CONCLUSION:

This truth should be for us a great comfort and encouragement. Because we are made in God's image, wonderful things can happen

to us. When we recognize and admit our sin and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, God through His grace restores our moral sense. He revitalizes our sense of eternity. He re-sculpts His character in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is the One who does this work in us, which begins with His sealing us to redemption. The Word of God describes this in phrases like the one found in Ephesians 1:13, “*you also...were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.*” (Ephesians 1:13, NASB95) Or like in Ephesians 4:30, “*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*” (Ephesians 4:30, NASB95) And in 2nd Corinthians 1:21-22, “*Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.*” (2 Corinthians 1:21–22, NASB95) Just as when an ancient wax seal was placed on a container or letter, and the owner took his ring and pressed it into the hot wax, so does the Holy Spirit do with us as He warms us, makes us malleable, and then presses His image, His character into us. As we grow in the Spirit, the mark of His divine impress burns deeper and deeper into us as we conform more and more to His image. What a wonderful truth is ours as we submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Finally, this is a call for profound commitment and surrender to God. To us who bear the image of God by virtue of our humanity, and then have had the character of God further pressed upon our souls by the sealing and progressive work of the Holy Spirit through the salvation and sanctification process that begins by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and His perfect work on the cross and His resurrection, Jesus’ words echo in our ears, “*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.*” (Mark 12:17, NASB95)

Have you given to God what is His? He says, “I AM WHO I AM.” Have you said, “I am Yours”?