

A Coin and a Question

Mark 12:13-17

Series: *“Cornerstone or Stumbling Stone?”*

Emmanuel Baptist Church

February 17, 2019

Mark 12:13–17 (CSB) - *Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to Jesus to trap him in his words. ¹⁴When they came, they said to him, “Teacher, we know you are truthful and don’t care what anyone thinks, nor do you show partiality but teach the way of God truthfully. Is it*

***lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?
Should we pay or shouldn't we?"***

***¹⁵But knowing their hypocrisy, he said
to them, "Why are you testing me?
Bring me a denarius to look at."¹⁶They
brought a coin. "Whose image and
inscription is this?" he asked them.
"Caesar's," they replied.***

17 Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

1. Jesus endorsed the legitimacy of human government.

Mark 12:15-17a (CSB) – *But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius to look at.”* ¹⁶***They brought a coin. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked them. “Caesar’s,” they replied.***

¹⁷***Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, ...***

Romans 13:1–6 (CSB) - *Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. ²So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.*

Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. ⁴For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. ⁵Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath but also

because of your conscience. ⁶And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's servants, continually attending to these tasks.

**2. Jesus established
the separation between
human government and
His church.**

Mark 12:17 (CSB) – *Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*

Jeremiah 29:4–7 (CSB) - *This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵“Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters.*

Multiply there; do not decrease. ⁷Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.”

1 Peter 2:13–17 (CSB) - *Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority ¹⁴or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. ¹⁵For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. ¹⁶Submit as free people, not using*

your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

John 18:36 (CSB) - *“My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”*

Acts 5:29 (CSB) - *Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than people.”*

1 Peter 2:9 (CSB) - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

Revelation 7:9–10 (CSB) - *After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

**3. Jesus espoused the
responsibility of
rendering to God what
is God's.**

Mark 12:16-17 (CSB) – *They brought a coin. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked them.*

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

¹⁷Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”