

Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"
"Jesus And Taxes"
Luke 20:20-26
Study-83

Luke 20:22 Jesus' answer forms the foundation of understanding **"The Church's and the Christian's role in the world, politics, and government."**

**This encounter is recorded in three Gospels:
Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26**

Luke 20 Tuesday In The Temple With Six Skirmishes:

- 1. Verses 1-8 A Question Of Jesus' Authority: (Past disobedience)**
- 2. Verses 9-19 A Parable Of The Wicked Tenant Farmers: (Present)**
- 3. Verses 20-26 Conflict Over Caesar: (Entrapment)**

The Thought Of Our Passage: "Life Is A Two-Sided Coin, With Our Obligation To Governing Authorities, And Secondly Our Obligation To God"

- 1. Verses 20-22 The Entrapment:**
- 2. Verses 23-26 The Escape:**

1. Verses 20-22 The Entrapment:

Luke 20:20 So Context – This is a continuation of Tuesday **"The Day of Controversy" Verses – 9-19 Jesus Exposed The Religious**

**Present Rebellion: Then Jesus Warned Of Future Ruin: Luke 20:18
WARNING: IF YOU REJECT GOD'S SON YOU WILL RECEIVE GOD'S JUDGEMENT.**

they watched Him, Context - (Monday) Luke 19:47; Luke 20:19

**and sent spies who pretended to be righteous,
Mark 12:13 Matthew 22:16**

Pharisees & Herodians were the most unlikely two groups that would work together.

Pharisees - "to separate, or separate ones" (**Religious Conservatives**) ("Formalism" Right Wingers) **Law Of God, Devoted To Israel**).

Herodians - ("**Worldly Minded, Political Liberals**") ("Worldly" Left Winger) **Law Of Rome, Devoted To Caesar**)

There are two cements that can bind people together: "Love" and "Hate" There are those that hate each other (Herod & Pilate **23:12**)

The Love of God cements us together. **1 Peter 4:8**

pretended to be righteous,

This is a favorite technique of Satan. **If you can't beat them, join them!**

in order that they might catch Him in some statement,

the word **catch** – *"to catch in a blunder, a mistake, catch physically"*

so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.

Their motive was to silence Jesus. To get rid of Him to offend Rome.

Luke 20:21 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher,

"master" Reserved for rabbis. They use flattery to help set the hook.

we know that You speak and teach correctly, The Greek word *orthos* from which we get *"orthopedic or, orthodox"*. You speak straight.

and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.

Flattery – *"is saying to a person's face what you would never say behind their back."* The reverse mirror-image of gossip.

Gossip – *"saying behind a person's back what you would never say to their face"*

teach correctly, *"Teacher, you're always right!" You're accurate and always correct!*

and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.

"Teacher, you don't play favorites. You show us the true way."

Psalms 12:3; Proverbs 26:28; Proverbs 29:5

Luke 20:22 taxes, or Poll-tax *"pay tribute to Caesar"* – Since 63 B.C., every adult of Israel was to pay this tax once a year. (Days Wage) Tax maintained the Roman army. It was a real point of irritation to the people.

"Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"

Jesus had Himself in a real tight spot. (No Win)

1. If Jesus said, "Pay it!" the Pharisees and their followers would look at Him as a Herodian sympathizer supporting false Rome (The crowds would be upset!)

2. If Jesus said, "Don't pay it!" Herodians would be able to report to Rome that Jesus is in rebellion against the government.

2. Verses 23-26 The Escape:

Luke 20:23 But He detected their trickery,
Matthew 22:18 "to speak from underneath, play actor"

Jesus is omniscient, all-knowing.

Luke 20:24 "Show Me a denarius. This was the coin that was used to pay the tax. It had to be with this coin alone. It was worth about 20 to 25 cents, which was a day's pay.

Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" One side of the coin had a picture of Tiberius Caesar. The other side had the inscription that read, "*Tiberius Caesar, Son Of The Divine Augustus*" "*Chief Priest*"

They said, "Caesar's."

Jesus just wanted to point out that the coin itself had the ruler on it.

Graven image **Exodus 20:4** Violation of the second commandment!

Luke 20:25 And He said to them, "Then or "There you have it!"

render or pay - means *to pay a debt. Taxes, respect is not optional but is due!* **"Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,**

Jesus is teaching **"Life Is Like A Two-Sided Coin, With Two Sides To It"**

Side One - Every Person Has A Physical Obligation To Caesar:

Government is of God, period. Whether it is good government or not. Later, Jesus was accused of not paying **Luke 23:2**

Government Exists - *Government is an institution of God.*

To protect the people, administer law and order, collects taxes so services can be administered, to serve the common good as a principle of justice.

Romans 13:1-2, 6-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13

John the Baptist made a stand against Herod. Luke 3:19-20 was reprovved by him on account of Herodias, his brother's wife,

He divorced his wife and actually took his niece.

Reprovved – *"To convict, to prosecute the case against someone that he is proven guilty of the crime of which he is accused."*

The Church Was Never Commanded To Reform Society:

Externals will never do that, but the heart must be changed first.

Government Has overstepped its authority when it commands us to violate a command of God: Acts 4-5 commands us to do an immoral act:

Christians can never go against their God given conscience:

and to God the things that are God's." There is another side of the coin.

Side Two - Every Person Has A Spiritual Obligation To God:

It is because God is first that we are to obey government!

God Wants Us! Philippians 3:20

"Government Is Not God"

Church Exists – to nurture hearts and souls. To glorify God and bring the saints of God to maturity. (**Exalt, Edify, Evangelize**)

Genesis 1:27; Romans 1:19-20 Every man woman and child is made (Minted) in God's image. That we are all stamped with His seal of ownership.

and to God the things that are God's."

What is He referring to? **God Wants Us!**

Bottom Line - God Wants Us!

We belong to Him; we are His property!

Luke 20:26 and being amazed at His answer,

"To be in wonder" they became silent.

Application: "Life Is A Two-Sided Coin"

1. Side One - Every Person Has A Physical Obligation To Caesar:

I need to live as a responsible citizen, leading an example of a life with God. Different in business, relationships, and goals.

2. Side Two - Every Person Has A Spiritual Obligation To God:

My goals, my talents, abilities and gifts are not mine, but His. I have been made with a vacuum that only God can fill! **God wants me, and all of me!**