



A Tribute to Uncle Sam?

Lesson: Two Hundred and eleven

Series: The Kings Rejection.

Title: A Tribute to Uncle Sam

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Date: March 15, 2020

Matthew 22:15–22 Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said. 16 And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. 17 “Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? 19 “Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” 22 And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.

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16 And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any.

“their disciples” Pharisaical trainees.

Luke 20:20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who **pretended to be righteous**, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.

“Herodians” - Identified themselves with Herod

- the Herodians were _____.
- The Pharisees / their disciples were _____.

They were rival parties who wanted to get rid of Jesus to protect their own power bases.

Hypocritical flattery

“Teacher”

“truthful” “truth”

“defer to any one”

“not partial”

The irony

17 “Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

Legal taxes demanded by the Roman government:

- 1. Ground tax** - 1/10 of the grain, 1/5 of oil / wine
- 2. Income tax** - 1% of one's income
- 3. Poll tax** - Mandatory tax for every male from age 14-65 and by every female from 12-65

Mark 12:14 “Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

Jesus only had two options to answer:

Option #1 - “YES, pay the tax”

He would be considered a _____ to Israel.

Option # 2 - “NO, don't pay the tax”

He would be accused of _____
against Rome.

18 But Jesus perceived their malice,

and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?”

“hypocrites” (13 times)

19 “Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius.



The very coinage of Rome was a gross affront to them and a blasphemous intrusion into their life.

20 And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.”

Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s;

“**render**” [apodidomi] - To pay back what does not belong to you.

Matthew 22:17 “Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to **GIVE** a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

“**give**” [didomi] - giving up or granting a gift

Romans 13:1–7 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a **MINISTER OF GOD** to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a **MINISTER OF GOD**, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this **YOU ALSO PAY TAXES**, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 **RENDER** to all what is due them: **TAX TO WHOM TAX IS DUE**; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Paying taxes is an act of worship and
_____ **to God.**

21b. and to God the things that are God's."

What are the things that belong to God?

Jesus, the Son of God, is standing before those who refuse to render to Him the worship that He deserves.

What God allows government to demand is social and economic. What it can't demand is spiritual and religious.

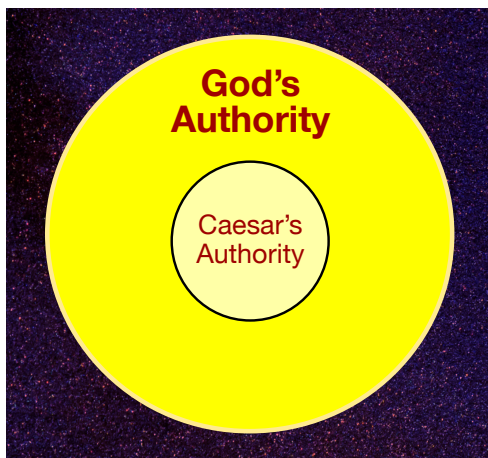
There is to be a distinct _____
of church and state.

God does not intend to keep Christianity out of
government, but He does demand that the government
_____ of Christianity.

22 And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him,
they went away.

Implications

1. For believers, paying taxes is not a _____
act, it's an act of honoring God.



2. Although we should honor the demands of the state, it
does have _____.

We are to be compliant to the state, however, if it oversteps its God-given boundaries by making demands in the spiritual realm, we are to _____.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Discussion Guide

1. How does the general public feel about taxes and why?
What could we say to help people apply Romans 13:1-7?
2. How is the separation of church and state in our current culture misunderstood?
3. The Roman government was cruel and oppressive, and yet, Jesus didn't deny them the right to collect taxes. How does this apply to us today?
4. Even though government has authority over our lives, it is limited by God. Look up Acts 4:19 and 5:29 and discuss under what circumstances we are to practice civil disobedience.
5. Today's message has broad application toward our opinions of government and taxes. What attitudes or actions is God revealing to you that He wants you to change?

ANSWERS: pro-Rome, anti-Rome, traitor, treason, submission, worship, separation, keep out, secular, limits, resist

