

THE GOSPEL of

MARK

What About.....

Setting

- Passover Week
- Triumphal Entry
- Temple Confrontation
 - affecting support & control of leaders
- Challenges & Traps
 - chief priests, scribes, elders – challenge
- parable of tenants
- today – see also Luke 20, Matt. 22

“And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar's.” Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.

And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

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Mark 12:13-27

And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

1. The Trap

- Luke 20:19-20 “The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.”

a) Pharisees and Herodians

- totally opposite stands on many things
- specifically this issue – dug in on both sides
- Herodians support status quo – Roman authority & protection

b) Tax to Caesar

- fake praise – flattery gets them nowhere
- from age 14-65, pay a tax to Caesar
- seen as a deity, issue of worship at stake
- whose side do you choose – will cost you and give us cause

2. The Answer

a) The Object Lesson

- man made item – render to them what is theirs
- issue of dual loyalties

b) What is God's give Him

- parable of Tenants just spoken
- God seen as owner of all things, entrusts management to us
- not a choice between, dual loyalty

3. The Hypothetical

a) Sadducees

- liberal theologians of the day
- denies: bodily resurrection, existence of angels, supernatural occurrence and miracles

- recognized first five books of OT, disregarded oral tradition and the decrees of the scribes and leaders

b) Hypothetical Question – See Deut. 25

- meant to make resurrection look ridiculous
- system of identity, provision, protection – whose is she?

4. The Answer

a) You're Wrong

- love this start, wrong assumption stupid question

b) Two Issues

- don't know the scriptures
 - clear on issue of resurrection
 - clear on eternal soul, beyond this earth
- don't know the Power of God
 - created mankind from dust, able to raise dead
 - active in redeeming mankind – setting right
- there to be seen, recognized, experienced – yet denied
- interesting – doctrine prevented them from seeing God

c) God of the Living

- assumption – conditions of life on earth replicated in heaven
- 'like the angels' – funny they don't believe in angels
- mystery of relationship in heaven
- created in image of God, for relationship with him eternally

5. The Heart of God

a) Everything belongs to and is under God

-Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein”

- Deut. 8:17-18 “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

- knew the time and place of your life, prepared works for you, understood the conditions of your existence

b) Meant to be a Blessing with Dual Loyalty

- clear about participation in government & society
- not excused from participation – even in evil or exile
- Jer. 29:7 “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”
- limit on the loyalty
- Acts 5:29 “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men”

c) Heart & Motive in Questions Matter

- recall – rich young ruler, Nicodemus in John 3
- today – coming with an agenda, hypothetical, trap
- Jesus invites your question – ask away
 - exposes your motive
 - are you open to truth, what God says, or looking for ...
- is scripture authoritative in your asking?
- does God have authority to answer, even if you don't like it?
- will your obedience result?

d) You have an eternal Spirit

- eternity is yours, and at stake
- don't have clear view of relationships, how it will look
- preparing a place, be with Him, restored in relationship
- mystery of our relationships

So What?

1. Check your Heart in Seeking Questions

- has my culture and doctrine influenced the answer I seek?
- am I seeking to justify sin in my life, or surrender?

2. You have Dual Loyalties

- no question about God's authority and claim
- no question you are placed and there is government over you
- you are meant to be a witness in your place and space

3. Lead a life that Reflects Eternity

- not figured out but by faith living it out