

It's Time To Pay Up!

Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.
 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.

17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?

19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

I. Jesus was dealing with two opposing schools of thought!

1. The **Herodians** were loyal to King Herod and they looked to Rome to restore Israel.

They believed it was lawful to pay taxes to the unspiritual government (Caesar).

2. The **Pharisees** resented paying taxes to Caesar and felt it was a great humiliation.

They based this on the scripture in Ezra 7:21-23 & 24 which paraphrased says it shall be illegal for an outside alien government to tax our people or impose a tribute.

II. Jesus was questioned about a specific tax!

III. Jesus responded to the trap they were trying to set!

Luke 20:20 (ESV) - Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.

IV. Jesus used a wisdom from above that they were not used to!

Matthew 13:53-55 (ESV)

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,
54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "WHERE DID THIS MAN GET THIS WISDOM and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

Luke 21:14-15 (ESV)

14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,

15 for I will give you a mouth and WISDOM, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

Acts 6:10 (ESV) - But they could not withstand the WISDOM AND THE SPIRIT with which he was speaking.

1 Corinthians 2:5-7 (ESV)

5 so that your faith might NOT REST IN THE WISDOM OF MEN but in the power of God.

6 Yet among the mature we do impart WISDOM, although it is NOT A WISDOM OF THIS AGE or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

7 But we impart a SECRET AND HIDDEN WISDOM OF GOD, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

James 1:5 (ESV) - If any of you lacks WISDOM, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 3:17 (ESV) - But the WISDOM FROM ABOVE is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Proverbs 4:12 (ESV) - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Matthew 15:13-14 (ESV)

13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.

14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (ESV)

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

God wants increase in our lives in order for His purposes on the earth to be fulfilled through us.

Job 1:21 (ESV) - And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD.”

V. God’s View of money vs. Our View of money

1. God’s view of money is this:

(a) It all belongs to Him!

Psalms 24:1a (ESV) - The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...

(b) He wants to bring increase to fulfill His purposes on the earth!

Gen 12:2 (ESV) - And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

(c) You cannot serve God and money!

Matthew 6:24 (ESV) - “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

(d) Neither God or His gifts can be bought!

Acts 8:20 (ESV) - But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

(e) He wants us to be faithful with His money!

Luke 16:11 (ESV) - If then you have not been faithful in the UNRIGHTEOUS WEALTH (money), who will entrust to you the TRUE RICHES?

2. Our view of money is this:

(a) It's ours!

(b) We earned it!

(c) We have a right to spend it however we want!

(d) More money equals more freedom!

(e) More money means of security!

(f) More money brings happiness!

(g) The more money we have, the less we have to trust God in the future!

Proverbs 11:28 (ESV) - Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

Revelation 18:17 (ESV) - For in A SINGLE HOUR all this wealth has been laid waste."

Proverbs 11:4 (ESV) - Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

VII. God's Purposes for Money

1 Peter 2:17 (ESV) - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:13-16 (ESV)

13 Be subject FOR THE LORD'S SAKE to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,

14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Romans 13:6 (ESV) - For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

The Greek word there for fear is "phobeó"...

It means "the sense of reverential awe towards God as well as terror if we are disobedient to Him"!

Luke 12:4-5 (ESV)

4 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.

5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Matthew 22:19-21 (ESV)

19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness (image) and inscription is this?"

21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Genesis 1:27 (ESV) - So God created man in his OWN IMAGE, in the IMAGE OF GOD he created him; male and female he created them.