

Read Mark 12:13-17

**13** Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.

**14** “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

**15** Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I’ll tell you.”

**16** When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.

**17** “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them.

**What were the Jewish religious leaders planning to do (v. 13)?** They were trying to catch Him saying something bad about the king so they could arrest Him. They were going to try and trick Jesus.

**What were they saying to Jesus in the first part of v. 14?** They were saying nice things trying to catch Him off guard. They were flattering Him. They were trying to distract Jesus.

**What question did they ask Jesus (vv. 14-15)?** Do we have to pay taxes to the King?

**If Jesus said “Yes, pay taxes to Caesar,” What would have happened?** The Jewish people would have been mad at Him.

**If Jesus said “No, you don’t have to pay taxes to Caesar,” what would have happened?** He would have been arrested for telling people to break the King’s law.

**Once again, they think they have Jesus trapped. What happens whenever they think they have Jesus trapped?** He outsmarts them. He can’t be tricked into saying something wrong.

**What did Jesus know about these leaders (v. 15)?** He knew they weren’t honest and were just trying to trick Him. He knew they were hypocrites with impure hearts.

**What did He tell them to do?** Bring Him a coin. **What question did Jesus ask them after they brought the coin (v. 16)?** Whose picture is on this coin? **Whose picture was on the coin?** Caesar, the King.

**How did Jesus answer their question about paying taxes (v. 17)?** Whatever you owe to the King, pay him. Whatever you owe to God, pay Him.

**How did the Jewish religious leaders respond?** They were amazed at Jesus’ answer. They didn’t know what to say.

**What does this mean to us today?** We should pay our taxes to the government and we should also give money to the church. The government uses our taxes to do a lot of good things for us. **What are some of those things they do for us?** They pay our police and the military who protect us. They pay our firemen who save us from fires. They build our schools and our roads. Etc.