

Life in Two Kingdoms

May 15, 2022
Mark 12:13-17

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Jesus Unites People

- Disciples – ragamuffin sinners shaped into apostles
- Diverse people - united against Jesus^{Mk3:6}
- Odd allies – Pharisees, Herodians & Saducees
- Opposition not unique to Jesus^{1 Pet 4:12-13; 1Jn3:13}

Coming to Jesus with Questionable Motives:

- Saducees sent delegation of Pharisees & Herodians
- Flattered first^{12:14}; Didn't understand Jesus was God!
- Thought they posed 'the ultimate trick question'^{12:14}
- Yes - side w/ Pharisees & Herodians, not popular
- No - accused of treason, Caesar would solve problem

Jesus Calls Them Out!

- Why put me to the test?
- Same word as Satan's testing^{Mk1:13}, pharisees^{Mk8:11;10:2}

Jesus' Masterful Reply¹⁵

- Denarius, required for tax payment; image of Caesar
- *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

Two Kingdoms

- Jesus doesn't question Caesar's place^{Ro13:1}
- Caesar is there by God, believers pray for them^{1Ti2:1-2}
- Government run by sinners under God's authority
- Believers live under two kingdoms: world & God

So What?

- Be a good citizen regardless of government
- Government has authority even when poorly exercised
- Allegiance to Christ & country not incompatible
- There should be separation between church & state
- Believers not tied to any nation or form of government
- The State is not God - God alone is God
- YOU are made in God's image^{Gen1:27} - you owe an absolute allegiance to God!

They marvelled at Jesus

- Does your life cause others to marvel at Jesus?
- You can't do this alone, live by power of Spirit for God!
- That is the hope and the purpose of the Gospel!

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