

The Trap
Mark 12:13-17
Lesson #48
8-30-26

I. Jesus was approached by the Pharisees and Herodians.

A. They intended to trap Jesus in His words.

Mark 12:13 *"Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words."*

Luke 20:20 *"Keeping a close watch on Him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something He said, so that they might hand Him over to the power and authority of the governor."*

B. They were insincere with their words.

Mark 12:14a *"They came to him and said, 'Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth'"*

John 14:6 *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the TRUTH and the life! No one comes to the Father except through Me!'"*

John 8:13b ... *"Your testimony is not valid."*

Romans 2:11 *"God does not show favoritism!"*

Titus 1:2 *"God does not lie."*

Psalms 55:21 *"His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords."*

Psalms 78:36 *"But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues; ^[37] their hearts were NOT loyal to him, they were NOT faithful to his covenant."*

II. Jesus was asked an insincere question.

Mark 12:14b *"... Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"*

Mark 12:15a “Should we pay, or shouldn’t we?””

III. Jesus assessed the motive of their question.

A. Jesus identified their hypocrisy.

Mark 12:15b “... But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?”

Matthew 22:18 “But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?”

Luke 20:23a “He saw through their duplicity”

2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ^[19] It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

John 2:25b “... for He knew what was in man.”

B. Jesus asked whose image was inscribed on the coin.

Mark 12:15c “... He asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.”

Mark 12:16 “They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.”

C. Jesus gave an ingenious answer.

Mark 12:17 “Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him.”

How can we apply this lesson to our life today?

A. Are you being deceived by someone’s flattery?

Proverbs 26:28 “A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”

Psalms 12:2 “Everyone lies to his neighbor; their flattering lips speak with deception.”

B. Are you distracted from God’s Word and will?

Mark 12:14a “They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth”

C. Are you devoted to the Lord?

Mark 12:17 “Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him.”

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”