

***The Gospel According to Mark
Jesus. Servant. Master.***

Lesson 46

Read Mark 12:13 – 17

Introduction: The word translated “render” in Mark 12:17 means “to pay a debt, to pay back.” Jesus looked on taxes as the citizens’ debt to the government in return for the services performed. Today those services would include, among other things, fire and police protection, national defense, the salaries of the officials who manage the affairs of state, special programs for the poor and underprivileged, etc. The individual Christian citizen might not agree with the way all of his tax money is used, and he can express himself with his voice and his vote, but he must accept the fact that God has established human government for our good (Rom. 13; 1 Tim. 2:1–6; 1 Peter 2:13–17). Even if we cannot respect the people in office, we must respect the office.

Pastor Warren Wiersbe

1. What were the religious leader’s motives in asking Jesus this question concerning taxes according to Mark 12:12 – 13 (Read NLT)?
 - Can you think of other places in the gospels where the religious leaders were trying to trap Jesus in His words or actions? (Example John 8:1 – 11)

2. What do the following scriptures say about flattery?

- Daniel 11:32

- Job 17:5

- Proverbs 26:28

- Proverbs 29:5

- Romans 16:17 – 18

- Have you ever used “*flattery*” as a way to gain an advantage?
(Explain the situation)

3. Compare Mark 12:13 – 17 with Matthew 22:15 – 22 and Luke 20:20 – 26.
What other insights do you learn from these references?

4. The Jews had to pay two taxes, one to Rome and the other to the temple. According to Matthew 17:24 – 27 what unique way did Jesus use to pay the temple tax?

- What did the Apostle Paul say concerning paying taxes in Romans 13:7 – 8?

- In what ways does the Apostle Peter encourage us to keep our responsibilities as we live in a pagan society found in 1 Peter 2:13 – 17?

5. Read Matthew 5:43 – 48. What does Jesus say about our attitudes and actions to those considered our enemies?