

Eastridge Church
Sermon Study Questions

Series - Mark: The Untold Story of Jesus

Week 38: A Clash of Images

Passage: Mark 12:13-17



Conversation Starter:

Do you enjoy watching political debates? Why or why not?

Re-read Mark 12:13-17

The text clearly states in vs 13 that the Pharisees and Herodians are trying to trap Jesus. *In your own words, what was their goal in asking Jesus this question? How would these leaders have benefited from a 'yes' or 'no' answer?*

In the sermon, Ben highlighted that this group of leaders believed that the primary problem of their age was the oppression of the Roman Empire. *As you look at the world around you, what are leading voices saying is the primary problem of our age? How does this compare to what Jesus has asked us to focus on?*

In verse 15, Jesus asks these leaders, "Why put me to the test?" This is a question that continues to resonate today. If we are honest, even as believers we often put Jesus to the test as we expect Him to mold himself into what our expectations are. *Take some time to consider your own expectations or motivations. What are some practical ways to guard against allowing our expectations or motivations to overshadow what Jesus is asking us to focus on?*

We see from this passage that Jesus does not allow himself to get drawn into this debate that would have alienated one side or the other. Instead, He engages with a specific coin, that bears an image, and challenges a group of people, who are also image-bearers. **Re-read vs 17.** *Spend some time unpacking together the phrase "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (ESV) How do you understand this phrase? What does it look like to give God the things that are His?*

Finally, Ben used the following phrase to summarize a critical portion of Jesus' mission on earth: The restoration of God's image in every human heart. *Close your time in prayer, asking that the Holy Spirit would highlight how you can best work with Jesus to do this where you are.*