

Death and Taxes

Mark 12:13-27

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08/27/23

I. Enemies join forces to trap Jesus. **Mark 12:13-15a**

The Pharisees and the Herodians formed a temporary alliance against a _____ threat, Jesus; similar to what they did in **Mark 3** after Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath.

- The Jews were forced to pay taxes to Rome. We actually have records of some Zealots at that time who _____ to pay taxes.

If Jesus said not to pay the tax, He would be in danger of Rome arresting Him for being a criminal _____ like Barabas, so the religious leaders believed they had set the perfect trap.

II. Render to Caesar. **Mark 12:15b-17**

The type of unacceptable **testing** seen in **Exodus 17**, is when doubt causes someone to demand something of God to _____ Himself, like the Pharisees were doing in the **Gospel of Mark**.

- *“But don’t forget that you were created in the image of God and therefore must live _____ God’s authority as well.”* (Wiersbe)

The denarius belonged to Caesar because his image was on it, but we should give ourselves to the Lord because His image is _____ on us.

III. The question of resurrection. **Mark 12:18-23**

The Sadducees did not believe in the _____ of the dead. **Acts 23:8**

- The Sadducees asked an absurd and hypothetical question about a _____ marriage, hoping to show the Resurrection was nonsense. **Deuteronomy 25:5**

These religious leaders came unarmed to have a battle of wits with the _____ of scripture Himself, Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:16**

IV. The answer for the Resurrection. **Mark 12:24-27**

Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; _____ the earth and subdue it...”

- The Lord didn’t say, *“I was”*, but *“I am”*, using the present tense because Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still _____ in paradise.

The word **astonished** in **Matthew 22:33** describing the crowd’s reaction, can be translated as shocked, or to strike with _____.

V. Practical Application.

Physical death is certain for all, but it is also true that every person is an _____ being who will live on somewhere forever.

Hebrews 9:27, 1 John 5:11-13

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 12:13-15a**. Who were the Pharisees? Who were the Herodians? Why did these two groups hate one another? What common interest brought these two groups together and why? **Mark 3:6, Mark 3:23-27, Mark 12:14**
2. Read **Mark 12:15b-17**. “Discuss some ways it is difficult to submit to government authorities, even though the Bible teaches they are ordained by God.” (Wiersbe) **Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-25, 1 Timothy 2:1-2**
3. Read **Exodus 17: 1-7 and Malachi 3:8-10**. Discuss the differences in these passages about testing the Lord.
4. Read **Mark 12:18–27** and **Deuteronomy 25:5**. The Sadducees present Jesus with an absurd scenario of seven brothers marrying the same woman. They ask whose wife she would be in the resurrection since they all had her as a wife in this life. Jesus said they were mistaken. *Why were they mistaken according to Jesus? What two things did the Sadducees lack an understanding of?* **Hebrews 4:12, Hebrews 5:12, 2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2 Timothy 3:5, Psalm 138:2, Job 26:7-14**
5. Read **Matthew 22:31-33**. Discuss the meaning of astonished. *What did Jesus say concerning the resurrection of the dead that caused the multitudes to be astonished? Why did Jesus use the Book of Exodus as a proof text for the Resurrection?* **Exodus 3:6, Acts 24:15, 2 Corinthians 5:8**
6. “How do you envision what our lives will be like when we have new life in resurrected bodies?” (Wiersbe)
7. Discuss the Practical Applications of the sermon. **John 3:1-3, 1 John 5:11-13, Hebrews 9:27, 1 Corinthians 15:13-14**