

God and Ceasar

Discussion Questions for Mark 12:13-17

1. What does it mean to you to be patriotic?
2. What feelings do you have about your home country?
3. What do you believe is fair or unfair about having to pay taxes?
4. Who sent the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus? (12:13)
5. Who made a special trip to see Jesus? Why? (12:13)
6. What were the Pharisees and Herodians trying to accomplish with their visit to Jesus? (12:13)
7. How did the religious leaders try to trick Jesus? (12:13–15)
8. How did the religious leaders flatter Jesus? (12:14)
9. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees and Herodians? (12:15)
10. In what way were the religious leaders guilty of hypocrisy? (12:15)
11. What did Jesus ask the religious leaders to bring Him? Why? (12:15–17)
12. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”? (12:17)
13. How did the religious leaders react to Jesus’ words? (12:17)
14. How successful were the religious leaders in trapping Jesus? (12:17)
15. Why do you think the religious leaders complimented Jesus on His integrity and commitment to the truth before they asked their trick question?
16. Why do you think the religious leaders were so amazed at Jesus?
17. What does this passage reveal about Jesus’ attitude toward hypocritical behavior?
18. In what way do we flatter people?
19. What is good or bad about flattery?
20. What does it take to speak the truth and avoid using flattery with people?
21. What does this story teach about being patriotic to your country?

22. What should we do when a civil law goes against God's law?
23. Whom do you know who has felt a clash between a civil law and God's law?
What happened?
24. What did Jesus want the Pharisees and Herodians to do?
25. What values was Jesus communicating with His answer to the Pharisees' question?
26. What belongs to God that we should give back to Him?
27. What do you think you have held back from the Lord (such as an ability, a possession, or block of time)?
28. What is one thing or area of your life that you have withheld from the Lord but want to give back to Him?
29. Which is more difficult for you, letting go of what won't last or giving your life to God? Why?
30. What can you do to become more like Christ?
31. What is a prayer you can use to give to God what belongs to Him?
32. In what ways can you stand up for the truth in your place of work this week?