

## **God and Ceasar**

Mark 12:13-17

**Context:** In Mark 11-12, the religious authorities attempt to question the authority of Jesus and trap him in a number of controversial situations.

### **As you study your obligations to God and government**

#### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ the wisdom of Jesus (vs. 13-17)**

- A. They come to Jesus to ask Him if paying this tax is “lawful”, or allowed by God. They were trying to force Jesus into a corner. They thought there were only two possible answers, yes and no.
- B. If Jesus said “no”, they could label Him as an insurrectionist and have Him arrested for opposing Roman law. If He said “yes” He would lose face with the common people, who also hated paying the tribute money to Rome.

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ your taxes (vs. 17a)**

- A. The people who lived in ancient Rome enjoyed many benefits by being in that Empire. They enjoyed peace, protection, justice, safe travel, good roads, postal service, and many other things. All of that had to be paid for, so Rome taxed the people.
- B. The same is true today. We enjoy certain things in our society that must be paid for. Roads, schools, police and fire protection, clean water, military protection, etc., all have to be funded by the taxpayers.

#### **3. \_\_\_\_\_ what is due to God (vs. 17b)**

- A. Every human being in this world was created in “the image of God”, Gen. 1:26–27. Thus, He owns us and He has the right to demand that we yield ourselves up to His will for our lives.
- B. Just as Caesar has the right to demand what is his, God has the right to demand what belongs to Him. Every human has an obligation to give God their worship, their obedience, their praise, their love and their gratitude.