

Luke 20.19-26

“to God the things that are God’s”

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ADVENT = ‘come’! / Luke: Begin Holy Week

Most Important Week of Human History > Probably Tuesday

Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday by way of Good Friday

Sermons Next 3 Sundays: Genesis 1,2,3 Jesus Creator, Lord, Savior

Advent > Jesus ENTRANCE to World > God becomes man: ADORED!

Holy Week > Man Christ Jesus into Temple gets ATTACKED!

Declares self KING / Invites humble Enter Kingdom > REJECTED!

Religious Ldrs see Jesus as Threat to their POWER & POCKETBOOKS

Final Parable > Shamed & Exposed Religious Leaders – Selfish & Corrupt

Landowner sent Servants to collect Fees from Tenants > Rejected All

Ref to God’s Servants the Prophets: Word of God, Rejected, Some Killed

Owner sent Beloved Son, Surely Tenants will Respect him! > Killed SON

Then Owner sent Beloved Son “surely they will respect Him!?” NOPE!

LUKE 20.14 “But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

### 1. The Forces Against Jesus

Jesus of Naz IN Full AUTHORITY, AND Under FULL ATTACK

Confirmed Guilt, Invited Judgment > Lost Blessings > Land Given Away

People of God > Jew & Gentile eventually Primarily Gentile, NATIONS

He REFUTED their LEGITIMACY & REJECTED their LEADERSHIP

a) Allied > Enemies of Jesus UNITED against Him

STORM Clouds of Opposition GROW DARKER thru Gospel of LUKE

Ch 20 began w Challenging QUESTION: "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?" 20.2

Luke takes Off their MASK > Spies Pretended be Honest: Catch Him  
 Context Eliminates Possibility that Sincere Questions were being Asked  
 CONFLICT of Jesus and HIGHEST LEVELS of Leadership in Jerusalem  
 With Clever Questions intended to Confound Self-Proclaimed CHRIST  
 United in EVIL they HATE Message, making plans to KILL Messenger  
 Historic Enemies found Common Enemy > UPSTART from NAZARETH

b) Afraid v. 19 scribes & chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

Historic ENEMIES found COMMON ENEMY in Jesus of Nazareth  
 Trying to Win Support of People for their Treachery by setting TRAPS  
 v. 21 So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak & teach rightly & show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God

Words CAREFULLY DESIGNED to PREVENT any EVASION by Jesus  
 FORCED Him to ANSWER > Teaches Rightly & Truly, No Partiality  
 GREAT TRAGEDY > People come to JESUS and LEARN NOTHING  
 Questioners want HEAR their OWN VOICE > NOT Listen to MASTER

c) Attack Jewish Religious Leaders plotting for MANY MONTHS

9.22 "The Son of Man must suffer many things & be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Only Question for Them > HOW can they KILL Jesus and STAY SAFE?  
 Want to LURE Jesus to utter some BLASPHEMY > CAPITAL Offense  
 vs. 20 So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

If they could snare him into making an unguarded statement they might be able to succeed in destroying him.

William Lane

## 2. The Force of the Authorities

v. 22 “Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”

## Explosive Topic 6 AD > 1st Imposed by ROME on Province of JUDEA

## TRAP Set thinking Easy Yes/No Question – One of the Other

JEWS divided: Revolutionaries saw TAX as Sign of Roman Oppression

## Conservatives grudgingly Paid Taxes to stay in POLITICAL FAVOR

If Jesus says – YES! Pay Rome Taxes > Discredit Him in Eyes of People

NO! Pay Taxes to Rome > DANGER of being ARREST for SEDITION

Jesus is in a vice between Pilate and the people.     Joel Green

If Popularity of Jesus COLLAPSES then Leaders can Kill Him FREELY

23.1,2 the whole assembly rose & led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. *He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.*"

a) Purpose of Gov't > Maintain Safe, Orderly Society, Restrain EVIL

Gov't NOT given Duty of Raising Kids, Feeding Hungry, Providing Healthcare

Citizens can Choose to do these things thru Govt if they want to Pay for Them!

1<sup>st</sup> taught Genesis 9 > Order for Sinful World after the Flood: Protection

STATE Institution ORDAINED by God: Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. Romans 13:1

Obligations to State do NOT Violate OBEDIENCE to SOVEREIGN God

MODERATE Tax – Denarus = DAY'S WAGE given ONCE a YEAR

## God & Gov't INTERTWINED in Society > Cannot Fully Separate

Sanhedrin (Council) Tasked w/ duty of Collecting this Tax FOR Rome

## Constant Reminder of ROMAN DOMINANCE over SUBJECT Peoples

A Pharisee named Gamaliel... addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel... Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered" Acts 5:34,37

Judas the Galilean – called it SLAVERY & Attack on Sovereignty of God

Zealots REFUSED to Pay Tax / Acknowledgement of CAESAR

Religious Leaders feared Moral & Religious Implications of Roman Laws

v. 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's."

BRING Coin: WHY Not Have? Jesus Poverty? or Jesus' PRINCIPLES?

Jews in PALESTINE > COPPER COIN withOUT IMAGE of Emperor

Jesus ENEMIES have NO PROBLEM finding a ROMAN SILVER COIN

v. 25 He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Jesus moves Discussion from POLITICS to PRINCIPLE

HEAD on Coin reflects RIGHT of Sovereign over Territory of its USE

Common Idea > Emperor OWNED the Coins that bore HIS IMAGE

Carrying & USING COINS of CAESAR > Sign of SUBMISSION to him

b) Payment to Government: Render = "to pay a debt, to pay back"

1) Taxes > Owe for Roads, Mail, Utilities, Fire Safety, Police, Military

Rom 13.7 "Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed

Act of Obedience to King Jesus to pay Taxes to Gov't He Ordains

2) Prayer 1 Timothy 2 "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all in high positions"

3) Obedience – Only Limit is when Direct Conflict w/ Scripture

25 yrs Pastor Churches in Dictatorships > Communist Lands

Church Stronger Lands of Opposition > Freedom makes Americans lazy

Sister from China here in Couple Weeks > Share on December 14

Jesus did NOT come to Establish THEOCRATIC STATE

NOT come to OVERTHROW Existing POLITICAL ORDER

NOT come to END World THEN > set up His Physical KINGDOM Yet

Clear Distinction btwn God & Caesar > CONTRA IDOLATROUS Claim

The Bible does not call the church to side with any particular nation or political ideology, but to conduct its mission before all people since every nation needs God. Darrell Bock

4) Participation: Act like Live Here, Not in Heaven Yet – Show Heaven  
 Vote, Understand Issues, Serve in Military, Volunteer in Schools, etc.  
 Speak Out when State Violates God's Laws: Marriage, Abortion, Trans

### 3. The Final Authority

Jesus claims Unique, Absolute Authority > So does Other Religions  
 Schools doing all they Can to Keep Message of Jesus OUT of School!  
 Luke > Religious Leaders trying every way to GET RID of Jesus!

v. 21 "...and to God the things that are God's."

What belongs to God? Absolutely Everything!

Romans 11.36 "For from him and through him and to him are all things"

Fatal Flaw of Religious Leaders > Gap btwn God & Gov't – No Daylight

Everything that Belongs to Caesar ultimately belongs to Eternal God

Even our Politics is for God's Glory > Discipleship touches All of Life

Jesus absolutely refuses to Bow at Caesar's Throne

Abraham Kuyper – Dutch Preacher became PM of Netherlands: "There is not a square inch in the whole of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: Mine"

Today many secular people take strong objection to this way of thinking. They want religion to stay out of politics. They do not object to people practicing religion in private, but not in the public square. Philip Ryken

COIN: Small Silver Roman Denarius – Only Coin Acceptable for TAXES

1 Side > Bust of Emperor TIBERIUS – Semi-god son of AUGUSTUS

Inscription: "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus"

OTHER Side > "Pontifex Maximus" – IMPERIAL CULT

Obligations to State do NOT VIOLATE OBEDIENCE to Sovereign God

Clear Distinction btwn God & Caesar: Contra Caesar's Idolatrous Claim

This does NOT mean Xtians are in Charge of Caesar

God never intended the State to become an Extension of the Church

Earthly Gov't & Spiritual Gov't – There is Caesar & there is Church

Jesus never tells Disciples to get more Politically Involved  
Told Pilate “My Kingdom is not of this World” John 18.36

Object to GNC @ Kohala Elem > “trying to IMPOSE our Religion!”  
Religion > Many Claim “I have NO Religion” > Everyone has ONE  
Luke 20 > Question of Authority – Who’s in Charge? Final Decisions?  
Your Religion is your Highest Authority > Ultimate Truth > Reality  
Ordered your Life Around that Person or Thing > Guides your Life  
Wed Night AA People “Higher Power” WHO? It is ME!  
Religion taught Every Day in Every School in Hawaii – Xtian, Secular  
World made by Luck, Fate, Accident, Design, Faceless, Triune God?  
Starting Point – Everything Encounter Life > Luke, Fate, Accident....

Martin Luther “Secular government has laws which extend no further than to life and property and to external things and relations on earth...For over the soul, God can and will let no one rule but himself”

Jesus is MORE CONCERNED about Relationship with GOD than Caesar

Give to God what belongs to God > than means Absolutely Everything!  
Bodies, Eyes, Ears, Hands, Voice, Work, Prayers, Family, Homes, Time \$

What RIGHT does God have to CLAIM all We Have > He gave it to Us!  
Image of Caesar stamped on Coins// Image of GOD on HUMAN BEINGS  
Sees Enemies > Image of God Stamped on their Lives > BELONG to Him

See Even greater PROOF in the Cross > Jesus gave Everything for US  
God who DEMANDS everything Shows Way > Gives Son, Sheds Blood  
Will you Give yourself fully to Savior who gave Himself fully for You?

Psalm 55 - Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! // **Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan,** // because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. // **For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me.** // My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. // **Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.** // And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; // **yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness;** // I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest." // **Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city.** // Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; // **ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.** // For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. // **But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.** // We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. // **Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.** // But I call to God, and the Lord will save me. // **Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.** // He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. // **God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, because they do not change and do not fear God.** // My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. // **His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.**

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. // **But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction;** men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days.

**But I will trust in you. Amen and Amen.**