



“Trapping Jesus”

November 23, 2025

Mark 12:13-27



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Introduction:

How have you seen God’s power demonstrated recently?

In what ways do WE fail to understand the full scope of God’s power?

Trapping Jesus - Attempt #1 (Mark 12:13-17):

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

1. The Pharisees and the Herodians:

- What is the significance of the Pharisees teaming up with the Herodians in order to try and trap Jesus?
- Regarding the previous question, how might this be something the church experiences today?
- What is the tax in question?

2. The Trap:

- In what way could Jesus’ answers have trapped him?
- Jesus seems to be aware of their intentions despite their not being vocalized.

3. Jesus’ Response:

- What is the significance of Jesus’ asking them for a denarius?
- What does it mean to “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s”?

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4. Application:

- Is our requirement to honor the government (i.e. paying taxes) based on the character/merit of those who are leaders in the government? (See Romans 13)
- Describe the attitude towards the government that Jesus is trying to show us? Is that your attitude towards the government?

Trapping Jesus Attempt #2 (Mark 12:18-23):

“And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”

1. The Saducees:

- Who are the Saducees? What information does Mark give us about them?

2. The Ridiculous, Hypothetical Question:

- If a woman’s husband dies, and she then, through levirate marriages, marries his 6 brothers, all 7 die leaving no children, then the woman dies, who’s wife will she be in the age to come?

3. Jesus Reponds:

- What are the two things that the Saducees are lacking or failing to understand?
- Will there be marriage, as we know it, in the age to come (heaven)?
- What story does Jesus use to “prove” or show that the resurrection is true?
- How are the Saducees failing to understand scripture and the power of God?

4. Application:

What does this passage teach us about the nature of God? Jesus? (See John 1:1-4, John 11:25-26, 14:6)

What does the reality of the resurrection provide for the follower of Jesus?

How might we fail to understand the power of God today?

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