

Fearing God and Honoring the King

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 22.
- B. Ever since Jesus entered Jerusalem, He has been on the defensive.
- C. The religious leaders challenge Jesus on several fronts.

II. Allegiance.

- A. The religious leaders were trying to test Jesus by pitting Him against the Romans or the Jews. They asked Him if it was right to pay Caesar the poll tax.
- B. Christ said to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and render unto God what is due God.
 - 1. Jesus taught that it is not a matter of giving, but a matter of rendering.
 - 2. Every citizen owes its government some due because of the services that it provides.
 - 3. God owns everything, so everything is due Him.
- C. Christians are not citizens of two kingdoms--they are citizens of heaven and sojourners on earth.
- D. Jesus was not a revolutionary.

III. After-life.

- A. The Sadducees only accepted the first five books of the Old Testament.
- B. They also denied the resurrection.
- C. They did not believe in spiritual beings.
- D. They approach Jesus with a challenge of marriage and the afterlife. (Deuteronomy 25:5-6)
- E. Jesus' response.
 - 1. He says that they err because they do not understand the Scriptures. The Sadducees like many liberals today were deceived because they denied the inspiration of all the Scriptures.
 - 2. He says that they denied the power of God. God is the God of the living and not the dead. There is a resurrection of the dead. (Exodus 3:6)

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to a Christian who does not pay taxes because he does not like who is in office?

2. Why is belief in resurrection so integral to a correct understanding of God? Explain.

3. How did Jesus demonstrate who He was to the religious leaders when they attempted to make Him falter?
