

Our Obligation to God and Government

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 22.

B. Taxation is a particular issue in our culture.

C. The Jewish religious leaders were designing a strategy to make Jesus appear to be an insurrectionist to get Rome to kill him.

II. The aim: they wanted to trap Jesus in a statement. Instead of hearing the warning of judgment, they try killing the one who is trying to save them.

III. The Pharisees sent disciples to trap by the approach of flattery.

A. The Herodians were pro-Rome and the Pharisees were anti-Rome.

B. However, both were against Jesus.

C. The Pharisees sent disciples because they could not confront Jesus directly.

IV. The attack.

A. The Jews did not like the taxing system at all because they viewed themselves as independent from Rome with God as their only Lord.

B. The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus would be counted as an insurrectionist if he told the people not to pay the tax when they asked him about it.

V. The accusation.

A. Jesus knew the leaders wickedness. (John 2:25)

B. Jesus accuses the men of hypocrisy. (Romans 13)

VI. The response.

A. Resisting the government is resisting God who put the government in authority.

B. God has given government the right of punishment. (1 Peter 2:13)

C. We are to render to Caesar what is due him and God what is due him. Worship and allegiance is God's alone.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone saying that it is wrong to pay taxes when the government uses that money for evil?

2. Why do you think God gives government authority?

3. When does government cross the line?
