

DISCUSSION IDEAS

TAXES!

Mark 12:13-17

March 20th, 2016

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♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THE SET-UP

Read Mark 12:13-17 to review the attempted trap for Jesus, and how He responded.

Look at Jesus' clear description of their dishonesty in v. 15.

Think about Jesus' wisdom as shown by his response.

1. How did His request for a coin shine a blazing light on their hypocrisy? (Think about their known distortion of the Scriptures about "graven image idolatry", and the fact that they did not live what they preached.)
2. Discuss how Jesus' statement makes clear that we are to obey civil authorities.

♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT DO WE OWE TO GOD?

Now compare Mark 12:17 with 12:28-31.

What do we OWE to God?

In verse 30, discuss the three parts of how we are to show love for God.

How is loving others, in verse 31, showing love for God?

How does God's priority on unconditional love (agape) affect my daily life?

♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE IMPORTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (AGAPE).

Discuss what Jesus commanded us.

John 14:15 (NASB): "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

Luke 6:46 (NASB): "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? "

Compare John 14:21 and 23.

Do I really WANT to know Jesus?

What does it mean if I just accept forgiveness, but go about living my life my own way?

Do I have an obligation to live any certain way?

What are the consequences for me if I just do what I feel like?

ARE there any consequences? (The answer to that is in 1 Cor. 3:10-17 and 2 Cor. 5:10.)

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♦ FURTHER THOUGHT AND MEDITATION:

What is the difference between an unbeliever and me, if I just live for myself?

SUBMITTING TO GOD:

We humans tend to hate the word "submit".

What does submission to God have to do with true freedom?

As an example from our daily lives, think about the frequent reports of fatal car crashes where the occupant was not wearing a seat belt.

Consider the freedom a race car driver or an aerobatic pilot has as a result of being tightly strapped in.

(Just yesterday, on TV, I watched a horrendous real crash. The car was totally destroyed after tumbling over and over and slamming into a wall. Yet the driver walked away, waving to the crowd!)

♦ PRAYER:

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.

In what ways will my life influence them?

How significant are my prayers for them?

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.