

THE BASIC DUTIES TO STATE AND CHURCH

Mark 12:13-17

Key Verse: 12:17

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.' And they were amazed at him."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verses 13-14a. Who did the religious leaders send to Jesus? For what purpose? (12; 11:27) How did they flatter Jesus? Why? Was what they said about him true? If so, how could they be his enemies?
2. Who were the Pharisees? (See Mt 23:24; Lk 11:46; Mt 23:5; Mk 12:40) How could they become so corrupt? Who were the Herodians? Why was it unusual for the Pharisees and the Herodians to be doing something together?
3. Read 12:14b-15. What was the loaded question they asked him? (14b-15) What was the motive behind their question? Read verses 15b. What did Jesus know about them? Why did he ask for a coin?
4. Read 12:16-17. Whose portrait and whose inscription were on the coin? What did Jesus mean by "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's"? What belongs to Caesar? How can we apply this to our practical lives?
5. What belongs to God that we should give him? (Dt 6:5) What has God given to us? How can we be people who give to others rather than people who try to get from others? (See Jn 3:16; Mk 10:45; Ac 20:35)