

**Daniel Perrin – Lesson 9: Jerusalem Controversies –**  
**Wednesday August 28: Earthly Duties and Heavenly Outcomes**

Text: **Mark 12:13-17** – Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in *His* words. <sup>14</sup>When they had come, they said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? <sup>15</sup>Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see *it*.” <sup>16</sup>So they brought *it*. And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription *is* this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and 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. Continued opportunity for trapping Jesus, because of what He did at the Temple.
2. NOTICE: It is the Pharisees (religious leaders) JOINING WITH the Herodians (Greek Jews who supported a particular political “candidate” because it was expedient). – Planning since...
  - a. I.e. they were supporters of Rome
  - b. When religious and political enemies unite, you know there is spiritual danger
3. They hope to trap Jesus
  - a. If He answered one way, they could tell Rome that He rebelled against their authority.
  - b. If He answered the other way, they could show the Jews He was a supporter of Rome.
4. Jesus asked for a Roman denarius — The Tiberius Caesar tribute coin in use at the time
  - a. IMAGE – Tiberius Caesar – laurel of victory
  - b. INSCRIPTION – Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus
  - c. ON THE BACK – A false god with another inscription about the Caesar as the authority over worship
5. NOTE: Jesus didn’t just give a clever, evasive answer
  - a. His opponents wouldn’t have been silenced by that
  - b. NOR did He just teach a lesson about civil responsibility and paying taxes
6. He ASKED for that pagan idolatrous coin and taught TWO LESSONS
  - a. ONE: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”
    - In other words: despite what the coin says, Caesar is NOT God
    - You can pay your taxes to a corrupt government WITHOUT sacrificing your loyalty to God.
  - b. TWO: He pointed out their hypocrisy
    - They were happy to buy and sell with idolatrous coins
    - Happy to hoard idolatrous coins.
    - All while looking pious – claiming that they were keeping every letter of God’s Law
    - But as long as the idolatrous coins made them wealthy, they were happy to compromise.
    - They wanted Jesus to give permission to HOARD these coins INSTEAD of paying what was due.
  - c. Jesus forced them to acknowledge the idolatrous nature of the coin: a False God
    - It wasn’t the love of God that motivated them to resist paying their tax.
    - It was their love of money.

**Mark 12:18-27** – Then *some* Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: <sup>19</sup> “Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man’s brother dies, and leaves *his* wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. <sup>21</sup> And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. <sup>22</sup> So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. <sup>23</sup> Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.” <sup>24</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?” <sup>25</sup> For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

<sup>26</sup> But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *burning bush passage*, [Literally “in the bush” – there were no chapters or verses] how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I *am* the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”

7. The Sadducees had their own version of a test – the UNANSWERABLE QUESTION
  - a. Pharisees believed in an afterlife / Sadducees were essentially materialists (did not believe in Angels or a life after this earthly life)
    - **See Acts 23:8** – *For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.*
  - b. The Sadducees are trying to discredit the Bible’s teaching on the Resurrection
    - Thus undermining faith in Jesus’ power over sin and death
  
8. We sometimes get hung up on Jesus’ response about the condition of our relationships in a SINLESS universe
  - a. We can’t picture an existence that isn’t “just like” here ... only without things WE don’t like.
  - b. And our relationships are so sacred to us that we think they belong to US
    - So our natural inclination is to argue with God and His Word
    - We try to describe what Jesus “should have said” / what WE think He meant
  
9. Jesus’ words about marriage here offer us several ESSENTIAL INVITATIONS
  - ONE – Read Scripture More – to establish what you believe NOT on your feelings about what God would do, but upon His Revealed Word — rightly understood
  - TWO – Trust God with my WHOLE Family & Life!
  - THREE – TRUST Jesus and His plan when I have limited knowledge of the future.
  - FOUR – REST in His love for me AND my family.
  - FIVE – Love Jesus MORE than anything !