

Jusus' Divine Authoritative Teaching

Mark 12:13-34

1. What belongs to God? Vs. 13-17

The Pharisees and Herodians asked with the intention to discredit Jesus, but Jesus used the opportunity for discipleship when answering whether one should pay the imperial tax to Caesar. Jesus' response emphasized to give Caesar whatever has his image on it and give to God what has His image on it.

Every person is stamped with God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), so each person must give themselves to God. Each person belongs to their Creator God.

Reflection:

- We need to make sure we do not confuse our commitment to Jesus with other earthly commitments. Jesus urges his followers to have a singular loyalty to God. Do you see the world through the lens that Jesus is talking about, or the news that you consume online or on television... etc.?

2. What is Our Approach? Vs. 18-26

The Sadducees also tried to discredit Jesus with a scenario, but Jesus rebuked them as their scenario was only a dilemma because these students of the Scriptures failed to examine the scriptures or even recognize that through the resurrection, God's power transforms.

They imagined that if there was going to be an age of the resurrection, it would have the same framework and structure as the current earthly conditions.

Everyone who receives Jesus sacrificial death for their sin and proclaims Jesus as Lord as He rose from the dead, becomes a new creation; this includes a resurrection shaped mindset.

We are called to approach situations according to the scripture and in view of God's power.

Questions:

- Do we have a resurrection approach as we live our life? Read Romans 12:9-19 and observe how the resurrection approach differs from our former approach to life.

3. Is Your Love Driven in Knowledge and Insight? Vs. 28-34

The teacher of the law recognized Jesus as God's authorized teacher and sought to know what is the most important when it comes to obeying God? Jesus' response blends two passages to help answer his question; to wholly love God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and to love one's neighbour as oneself (Leviticus 19:18) is the entirety of what the God of Israel is looking for from his people.

Our love for God is impactful when our love is driven in the knowledge of God's Word, and the prayerful insight we receive. Asking ourselves two questions each day...

- 1) Am I choosing to love God based upon the knowledge of the Scriptures?
- 2) Am I choosing to love others according to the Scriptures? Jesus reveals that loving others is central to our spiritual formation.

Question:

- If someone asked you what loving God should look like, what would you emphasize?
- If someone asked you what loving others should look like, what would you emphasize?
- Think briefly about each interaction and how Jesus was attempting to reset false ideas in these groups. What false ideas are we hearing today that we need to disciple others about, and to teach them the correct truths from scripture?