

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"God and Government"

Luke 20:19-26

Jan. 14, 2024

Passion Week

Month of Nisan
1st month of Hebrew Calendar.
(Exodus 12:2) (March/April)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jesus arrived in Bethany yesterday (Saturday), and on Sunday the crowds visit Jesus and Lazarus in Bethany, which upset the Jewish leaders (John 12:9-20).	Select the sacrificial lamb. Exodus 12:3 "On the <u>tenth</u> of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves..." Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, a.k.a. Palm Monday (John 12:12) also see Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:9-20) Jesus visits the temple, looked around, and heals many Jesus returns to Bethany for the evening	Jesus curses the Fig Tree (divine judgment re: Israel) Jesus cleanses the Temple again, He overturned tables, seats, and prevented people from using the temple as a shortcut Jesus' conversation with Greeks (John 12:20-36) God the Father audibly speaks, and everyone hears (John 12:28-33) Jesus talks about His coming death and the unbelief of the Jews	Withered Fig tree is seen again (Mark 11) Jesus teaches all day in the Temple grounds. Jewish leaders official challenge of Christ's authority Jesus tells parables to the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees on the Temple grounds Jewish leaders plot to kill Him Jesus teaches the Olivet Discourse to the Disciples See chapters Matthew 21-25; Mark 11-13; Luke 19-21; John 12	Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare for the Passover meal. Note: Jews from Galilee (northern Israel) celebrate Passover on Thursday after sunset. Jesus & disciples Last Supper The Upper Room Discourse and Jesus High Priestly Prayer Jesus and Disciples go to Mount of Olives (Garden of Gethsemane) overnight to pray. See chapters Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13-18	Early am betrayal and arrest of Jesus 6 Trials of Jesus (3 Jewish then 3 Roman) The Passover day. Jews from Judea (southern Israel) would celebrate Passover on Friday. Sacrifice the lamb. Exodus 12:6 "You shall keep it until the <u>fourteenth</u> day...to kill it at twilight" and Deut 16:6 Jesus is crucified. Jesus' body put in Joseph's tomb before sunset. Day 1.	Jesus' body in the tomb Day 2. Jewish Feast of Unleavened bread continues for 7 days Note 1: Biblical days don't start/end at midnight. See slide below for an explanation of Galilean and Judean start/end Sunrise/Sunset Note 2: For details on what happened during the hours of Thursday and Friday see the below graphic	Jesus' body in the tomb Day 3. Jesus is resurrected Post-resurrection and appearances over the next 40 days to over 500 people

Luke 20:19-26

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20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.

21 They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.

22 "Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

23 But He detected their trickery and said to them,

24 "Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's."

25 And He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

26 And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent.

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- The religious leaders are getting desperate.

Mark 12:13

13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and **Herodians** to Him in order to trap Him in a statement.

- On the one hand Jesus popularity with the people is increasing.
- On the other hand Jesus keeps exposing their false religiosity for what it is – an evil works-righteousness, legalistic, hypocritical, system that puts to death all those who oppose it.
- They wanted to arrest Jesus and they wanted Him now.

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So here is their 5-step diabolical plan:

1. Watch Jesus.

Luke 6:7

7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath,

Luke 14:1

1 It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.

2. Send spies.

3. Pretend to be righteous.

4. Catch Him saying that which would condemn Him.

5. Arrest and deliver Jesus over to Pilate.

*So to do this they have to show Jesus to be a rebel/insurrectionist against Rome. Once that happens, it's GAME – SET- MATCH. It's over.

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- Note how they “butter-up, cajole, kowtow” to Jesus. Use flattery – insincere praise to achieve selfish ambitions.

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- None of the leaders, who gave these 3 compliments in verse 21, believed them. The whole thing was a pack of lies.
- Now they come up with their “gotcha question”.
- This was a controversial subject.
- Rome imposed taxes on everything – land tax on everything it produced, import taxes – goods coming in, export taxes – goods going out, income tax, poll tax.

There were three taxes which were collected:

1. Ground Tax: Made up of 10% of all the grain and 20% of all the wine and fruit produced.
 2. Income Tax: 1% of a man's income.
 3. Poll Tax: A flat tax of one denarius (a day's wage) was paid by all men from 14 to 65 years of age and on all women between the ages of 12 to 65.
- Jews hated Rome for their taxes. Especially paying them to an idolatrous, Gentile nation.

“Gossip involves saying behind a person's back what you would never say to his face. Flattery is saying to a person's face what you would never say behind his back.”

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- So on one hand it would have been easy to say “No”, don't pay your taxes and the people would have loved it.
- 30 years prior to this, a man by the name of Judas of Galilee came along and he says Jews should not pay their taxes. Led an insurrection. Rome killed him.
- I am sure the leaders thought He would say, “No.” Then they could arrest Him and turn Him over to Pilate. Once arrested, the Jews would see Rome has the power over Jesus and not Jesus over the Romans. It will cause them to turn immediately against Jesus.
- Once Jesus says “No” don't pay them, the Herodians will report to the Romans and have Jesus arrested.
- If Jesus says “Yes”, pay them, He will lose the people who will think He is not the Messiah for supporting a Gentile, idolatrous nation.
- With the people not a factor, they can arrest Jesus, bring Him to trial, and kill Him.

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- In other words, give to Caesar what is his and give to God what is His.
- What is Jesus saying?
 1. The believer lives in 2 worlds.

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- Mark - "knowing their **hypocrisy**," (Mark 12:15)
- Matthew - "perceived their **malice**" (Mt 22:18)
- Luke - "perceived their **trickery**" (Mt 20:23)
- "**Denarius**" – day's wage.
- The Caesar's had their image on the coins during their reign.
- Jews didn't carry them. Sign of idolatry.
- The religious leaders now think they've got Him.
- He's is going down the path of idolatry and will end up saying, "No."
- But in a shocking turn-around, Jesus says this question is not a "either/or" but a "and/also"

"We live in two worlds. We're citizens of this temporal world and a human government, while at the same time citizens of the kingdom of God under the rule of God Himself and Christ. The church is not to take over civil government. The church is not to rebel against civil government. The church is not to become the critic of civil government, neither by war, by civil disobedience, or by political power are we supposed to control civil government. This is not a sacral society. This is not a theocratic kingdom. America is not, neither is any other earthly nation."

- John MacArthur

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- What is Jesus saying?

1. The believer lives in 2 worlds.
2. They are citizens of an earthly kingdom. And they are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. They have dual citizenship.

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.

3. I have an obligation to my earthly kingdom.
- All nations, all governments are established by God. Provides a check and balance. Provides stability. Provides for the welfare of this world.
 - Every government provides for its people, in some measure - protection, material resources, food, order, so that it does not turn into anarchy and chaos.
 - Even the worst government here on earth is better than no government.



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- Government has a legitimate right to be funded with our taxes.
- When Jesus asked for a coin, He was implying that the Jews were benefiting from Caesar's government and therefore should pay their taxes.
- Government is due what government requires – our obedience to its laws, that we pay our taxes, and that we model by our behavior, citizens who respect, honor, and are in submission to the leaders and policies established for the good of its people. No government is perfect. All governments are pagan, all are run by sinners.
- God is due all that we are - our lives, our worship, our love, our adoration and our praise. He is due our time, our financial and material resources.
- The coin bore the image of Caesar and therefore was due what belonged to Caesar,
- However we bear the image of God, meaning God owns us – all that we are and all that we have.
- **Note:** All issues of government are spiritual issues and not political.
- Jesus sees this, as He always does, from a spiritual perspective. Why? Because politics never solved anything.



Biblical View of *Government* and Its Leadership from 5 Scriptures

1. Dan 2:21

21 . . . He removes kings and establishes kings;

2. Prov 21:1

1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

3. 1 Tim 2:1,2

1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

4. 1 Peter 2:17

17 honor the king.