

Talk Four

Should we pay taxes?

Week 4, Mark 12:13-17; 28-34

Discussion Questions

Choose a selection from the questions below.

Read 12:13-17

1. Why were the Pharisees and Herodians trying to Jesus to catch him in his words?
2. How is it that Jesus 'knew their hypocrisy'? What was the nature of their hypocrisy?
3. What do you make of Jesus' direct challenge: "Why are you trying to trap me?"
4. What you think Jesus' answer "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's", means for us?
5. What do you think Jesus' answer "... and to God what is God's", means for us?
6. Do you think we regularly see ourselves as belonging to God because we bear his image? What are some of the implications of this reality?

Read 12:28-34

7. What do you think is the difference between 'love' as a noun, and 'love' as a verb? Whilst we often talk about being 'in love' or that 'all we need is love', do you think the world is good at actually loving people? How about loving God?
8. Why do we find it so hard to love?
9. To love God completely is radical and costly. Can you think of some examples of the costliness of love? What do you think it actually means to love God with all your *heart, soul, mind, and strength*?
10. What would the church look like if people loved God 'half-heartedly'?
11. What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself? (And who is that neighbour?)
12. How would you describe the 'completeness' of God's love to someone who doesn't know that God loves them?

Reflection: *To whom do you belong? And, who is your first love?*