

MOSAIC CHURCH

★ THE GOSPEL ★

— AND —
POLITICS

¹³ Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.

¹⁴ They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay or shouldn't we?" ...

Mark 12:13-17

... but Jesus knew their hypocrisy.

"why are you trying to trap me?" he asked.

'bring me a denarius and let me look at it.'

¹⁶ They brought the coin, and he asked them,

"Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

'Caesar's,' they replied. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them,

"Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

Mark 12:13-17

The Revolutionary **Question**

The Revolutionary **Answer**

The Revolutionary **Revolution**

The Revolutionary **Question**

The Revolutionary **Answer**


The Revolutionary **Revolution**

**"Is it right to pay the imperial tax
to Caesar or not?"**

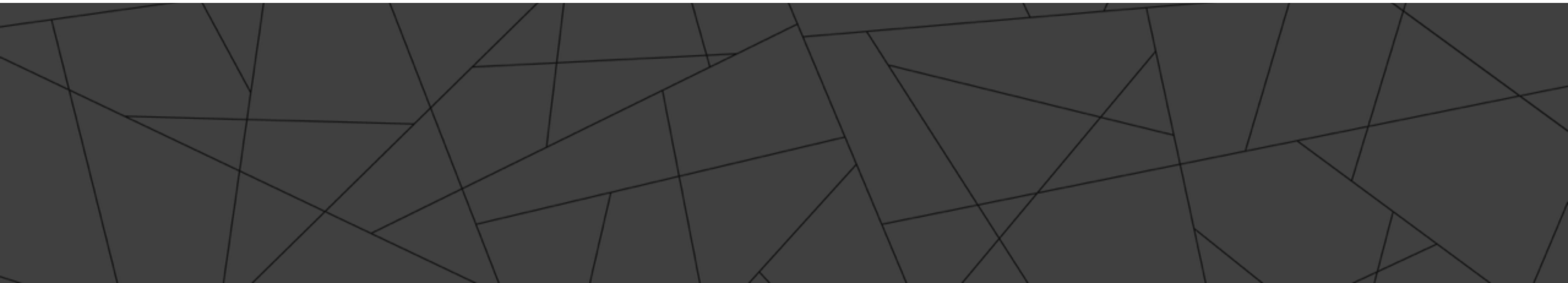
Mark 12:14

"the Pharisees and Herodians"

Mark 12:13



Herodians: supporters of Roman imperial power, laws, and customs; notorious for their immoral and sensual behavior



"Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

Mark 12:15



head tax: a tax of one denarius



Judas the Galilean did 3 things:

- ▶ He called on all Jews to refuse to pay the head tax.
- ▶ With an armed band, he went in and cleared out the temple of all foreigners.
- ▶ He said, "God will be our king, not Caesar".

The Revolutionary **Question**

The Revolutionary **Answer**

The Revolutionary **Revolution**

Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

Mark 12:17

Jesus is refusing:

simplicity

complacency

supremacy

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**"Whose portrait is on it, and
whose inscription is on it?"**

Mark 12:16



"Son of the God Augustus,
pontifus maximus,
high priest."

**"Render (pay back) to Caesar
what is Caesar's."**

Mark 12:17

"Had he told them to revolt? Or, had he told them to pay their taxes? He had actually done neither in one sense, but in a sense he did both. Nobody could deny that the saying of Jesus Christ that you could not give Caesar ultimate allegiance was revolutionary. But on the other hand, nobody could say that Jesus had forbidden the payment of taxes either. ...

N.T. Wright

... The point of Jesus is this: Jesus the Galilean is envisioning a revolution, he is—but a different sort of revolution than Judas the Galilean. Jesus Christ was advocating neither acceptance of the system nor straightforward political revolt. Yes, Jesus is saying, there will be a revolution, and yes, the temple will be cleansed, but not in the way you envision."

N.T. Wright

Jesus is refusing:

simplicity

complacency

supremacy

the Essenes

"spiritual hippies" of the day

the Zealots

advocated radical overthrow of the Romans

Jesus says, "Bring me a denarius."

Mark 12:15

The Revolutionary **Question**

The Revolutionary **Answer**

The Revolutionary **Revolution**

20 "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man."

Luke 6:20-22

Four Main Values of the Kingdom of Man:

Power
Success
Comfort
Recognition

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