

Matthew 22:15-22

Whose is What and What is Whose?

Taxation ...

I. Attempted Entrapment

- A. Flattery
- B. Trickery
- C. Treachery

II. Probing Retort

- A. Blunt
- B. Honest
- C. Disarming

III. Lesson for Life

- A. Civic Duty
- B. Chief End
- C. Heart Audit

... and the Kingdom of God.

Children, listen ...

1. What were the men asking Jesus about paying taxes trying to do?
2. Jesus tells them they are hypocrites. What does that mean?
3. What does Jesus say about paying taxes?
4. Jesus says that we are to give to God what belongs to Him. What does this mean for us?
5. Things in this life do not last forever, but what does?

What's in Your Wallet?

Not many folks carry cash these days, but if you do, you have a mini portrait of one or more of our former national leaders in there. If you have change on hand, you have an imprinted image of one of our past national heroes, probably a president. Including images of national figures on currency is obviously a longstanding practice. You may not appreciate paying taxes much, but at least the image on our money is not that of a Caesar! In our passage Jesus affirms the necessity of paying taxes to the temporal governments in which we live. While money is important and the topic of many Bible passages, Jesus uses the sinister question and a coin to address the deeper issue of what is lasting, namely God and His Kingdom. He has us look, not into our pockets or purses, but into our hearts. Yes, you have to pay taxes, but to whom do you belong? Whose image do you bear? Who is your King? The answer to the first is God. If the answer to the second is Jesus, you know that you are not your own but belong to the Lord. Render all things to God, your life, your soul, you all. The most important question is not, after all, what's in your wallet, but what's in your heart!?