

The Way of a Servant: Mark Image and Ownership

After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. (Acts 5:37)

In Mark 12, religious and political leaders join forces to test another revolutionary...

*Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch Him in His words.
(Mark 12:13)*

The test: offend or treason – “They came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by men, 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 taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?’” (vv. 14-15a)

The response: image and ownership

- ***Give to Caesar what’s made in his image: his money*** – “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?...Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s...” (vv. 16-17)

Tim Keller’s political advice to Christians per Jesus’ response...

- *Avoid political simplicity*
- *Avoid political complacency*
- *Avoid political primacy*

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Rom. 13:6-7)

- ***Give to God what’s made in His image: your life*** – “...and (give) to God what is God’s. And they were amazed at Him.” (v. 17)

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Gen. 1:27)

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Cor. 1:22)

With ownership comes allegiance...

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Rom. 14:8)