

Message: October 18, 2020

Title: “Give Back to God What is God’s”

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Introduction: Garage Sale Finds

I. Places of Redemption, Places of Testing

- A. Jesus came to give back to God what is God’s and to give back to us our God given image that sin steals from us.
- B. Jesus is being challenged in the Temple courts by stubborn elitists.
- C. Jesus is up against two different groups surrounding a hot-button question in Israel.
 - 1. Jesus was popular with the crowds who thought He was a prophet.
 - 2. Jesus’ enemies were afraid of the crowds.
 - 3. Pharisee disciples were sent.
 - 4. Herodians were also sent (a Jewish political action committee named after King Herod who were sympathetic to Rome).
 - 5. Their hatred for Jesus united these normally polarized groups.
- D. “Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”
- E. “It’s a trap!”

II. What’s it worth depends on who’s answer is trusted.

- A. Example of a music collector from the congregation.
- B. A value depends a lot on what that person or thing means to we who gives that answer.
 - 1. Find a polaroid of a long-lost son and an old woman will break down into tears.
 - 2. Look at an old picture hanging on the wall of a Cracker Barrel and it gets nothing more than a glance.

- C. Is Jesus more like the lost picture of a son or like the antique picture on the wall of Cracker Barrel?
 - 1. God’s Word falls into the same arena.
 - 2. In practice what do we really say about Jesus and His Word?
 - 3. Religious leaders represent all who hate Jesus past and present.
 - 4. Even the disciples at this point didn’t exactly understand what Jesus was about to do in just a few days on Good Friday.
- D. “Give Back...”
 - 1. Caesar vs. God—Who’s are we?
 - 2. Who’s image is on you?
 - 3. God owns it all anyway.
 - 4. Psalm 24:1 says very plainly, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”
 - 5. Jesus came to give back to God what belongs to Him.
 - 6. Many reactions—Parable of four soils.
- E. Where do our decisions take us—feeding the soul or our sin?
 - 1. Jesus is Messiah regardless of the eye of the beholder. (Philippians 2)
 - 2. God’s Word is authoritative
 - 3. Jesus is Lord of all.
 - 4. Easter did happen.
 - 5. Ethics are still important
 - 6. Peace, forgiveness, and repentance still matter.
 - 7. Morality is still biblically decided.
 - 8. Loving my neighbor defines the Christian life.
- F. Two more places to consider.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:20
 - 2. And John 19:14-15

III. God does not make junk but died and rose for the “treasure hidden in the field.”

- A. Story of Doris Roades. Jesus assumes the loss for the gain of humanity.
- B. Take another look at the coin.
 - 1. A silver denarius, a day’s wage.
 - 2. On one side was the inscription “Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Deified Augustus.
 - 3. The reverse it declared Tiberius “high Priest”.
 - 4. It sanctioned emperor worship and made the Roman empire the church.
 - 5. But where is the Roman Empire today? –a museum
 - 6. Caesar is a note in history and Jesus is still changing the world.
- C. You and I are not like those things of Rome.

Conclusion: Garage sales are not for the things that matter to us. Instead the things we love are treasured, protected, and favored.

Taking it Home

- 1. What are those things that you treasure in your heart most?**
- 2. What things in your life could be given up in order to simplify your life? Grow your faith? Lighten the burdens?**
- 3. If you could make something better in your life what would it be? What’s preventing you from doing it?**

Consider Reading Psalm 24 and John 19. Consider how the crowd looks at Jesus.