

## Paying Taxes to Caesar - Mark 12:13-17

*Topics:* Authority, Deceit, Government, Hypocrisy, Money, Peer Pressure, Truth

### Open It

- \* 1. What does it mean to you to be patriotic?
- 2. What feelings do you have about your home country?
- 3. What do you believe is fair or unfair about having to pay taxes?

### Explore It

- 4. Who sent the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus? (12:13)
- 5. Who made a special trip to see Jesus? Why? (12:13)
- 6. What were the Pharisees and Herodians trying to accomplish with their visit to Jesus? (12:13)
- \* 7. How did the religious leaders try to trick Jesus? (12:13-15)
- 8. How did the religious leaders flatter Jesus? (12:14)
- 9. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees and Herodians? (12:15)
- 10. In what way were the religious leaders guilty of hypocrisy? (12:15)
- \* 11. What did Jesus ask the religious leaders to bring Him? Why? (12:15-17)
- \* 12. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's"? (12:17)
- 13. How did the religious leaders react to Jesus' words? (12:17)
- 14. How successful were the religious leaders in trapping Jesus? (12:17)

### Get It

- 15. Why do you think the religious leaders complimented Jesus on His integrity and commitment to the truth before they asked their trick question?
- 16. Why do you think the religious leaders were so amazed at Jesus?
- 17. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' attitude toward hypocritical behavior?
- 18. In what way do we flatter people?
- 19. What is good or bad about flattery?
- 20. What does it take to speak the truth and avoid using flattery with people?
- 21. What does this story teach about being patriotic to your country?
- 22. What should we do when a civil law goes against God's law?
- 23. Whom do you know who has felt a clash between a civil law and God's law? What happened?
- 24. What did Jesus want the Pharisees and Herodians to do?
- \* 25. What values was Jesus communicating with His answer to the Pharisees' question?
- \* 26. What belongs to God that we should give back to Him?
- 27. What do you think you have held back from the Lord (such as an ability, a possession, or block of time)?
- 28. What is one thing or area of your life that you have withheld from the Lord but want to give back to Him?
- 29. Which is more difficult for you, letting go of what won't last or giving your life to God? Why?
- 30. Whom do you know who is not swayed by others?
- 31. What can you do to become more like Christ?

### Apply It

- \* 32. What is a prayer you can use to give to God what belongs to Him?
- 33. In what ways can you stand up for the truth in your place of work this week?