

THE GOSPEL OF  
**mark**

**Jesus & the IRS**  
**Mark 12:13-17**

*“Later the religious leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.*

*‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us – is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?’ Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, ‘Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin and I will tell you.’ When they handed it to him, he asked, ‘Whose picture and title are stamped on it?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they replied. ‘Well then,’ Jesus said, ‘give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.’*

*His reply completely amazed them.”*

Mark 12:13-17 NLT

**CAESAR’S THINGS**

**1. Our human obligations**

- We conditionally submit to our government.

*“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So, anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong... The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good...*

*Pay your taxes, too, for those same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.”*

Romans 13:1-7 NLT

**GOD’S THINGS**

*“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.”*

I Timothy 2:1-3 NLT

*“For the Lord’s sake, respect all human authority whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the King has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.*

*Respect everyone and love your Christian brothers and sisters.*

*Fear God and respect the King.”*

I Peter 2:13-17 NLT

**2. Our God-given obligations**

- We ultimately submit to God who is over all governments.

*“But Peter and the apostles replied,*

*‘We must obey God rather than any human authority.’”*

Acts 5:29 NLT