

ALL OR NOTHING

Matthew 22:15-22

Questions

- What draws divergent groups of people together? And what divides?
- Is it possible to have an impact on people's lives without seeking power? Without seeking money?

Clearly, upon examination of the life of Christ, He did not care about money for His personal gain, but He did care about how we viewed it – for our eternal gain.

This morning's message is a message aimed at the heart, concerned with the condition of the heart, wanting healthy union of believers because we have healthy hearts.

History

- The Pharisees were a religious group that opposed Roman occupation of Palestine.
- The Herodians were a political party that supported the dynasty of Herod the great.
- These two groups opposed each other, but united against Christ.

1. The Pharisees and Herodians seek to entrap Jesus.

- If He agreed it was right, Pharisees would say He was opposed to God.
- If He said taxes should not be paid, Herodians would charge Him with rebellion.

2. They are both hypocrites.

- This alliance will last as long as their self-interests align.
- This is not a relationship built on trust and respect.

3. Take note they did not go themselves, but sent their disciples.

- Who gets you to do their bidding for them?
- Proverbs 10:12

4. They begin with flattery.

- They believe that if He answers honestly, they will catch Him in His words.

5. Jesus' response does not seem very loving in today's vernacular.

- He is responding for those around to hear.
- He recognizes their hearts.
- He recognizes they will not understand, but wants His followers to understand.
 - Luke 12:22-34
 - How we view our finances is a good indicator of where our heart is at.
 - Your life will tell who is in control (Luke 12:16-21).
 - What keeps you from giving or helping others?
 - Selfishness
 - Fear

6. Jesus calls for obedience to both the government and God (Romans 13:1-7).

- People who are always on a crusade, trying to make some wrong right, actually struggle with a rebellious heart.
- Jesus is saying the image you honor in your heart will be reflected in your life.

7. What they failed to realize it that it was all God's.

- None of this belongs to anyone other than God – He is allowing us to utilize or enjoy everything you see.
- God can take it all away in a heart beat.

Cutting It Straight

- Who do you align yourself with?
- Do you allow yourself to be pulled in and used in ungodly alliances?
- Do you use flattery to get what you want? Are you susceptible to flattery?
- Are you mistaken into thinking you have ownership over all? (Proverbs 11:7)
- Do you view all that you have (family, resources, stuff) as God's or yours? (Proverbs 30:7-9)
- What image would your spouse, or your parents, or your kids, or co-workers, or classmates, or bosses, or teachers say they see reflected in your life?