

### TRADITIONAL VIEW OF HOLY WEEK

Sat	Palm Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Good Friday	Sat Sabbath	Easter Sun
	Rides into Jerusalem as king	Teach	Teach	Teach	Teach & Last Supper	Tried and Crucified	In the Tomb	Risen Appears to followers
Sabbath						Day of Preparation	Pass-over	

### ANOTHER VIEW OF HOLY WEEK

Sat	Palm Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Good Friday	Sat Sabbath	Easter Sun
Rides into Jerusalem as king	Teach	Teach	Teach & Last Supper	Tried and Crucified	In the Tomb	In the Tomb	In the Tomb	Appears to followers
Sabbath				Day of Preparation	Pass-over	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Rises after 6 p.m.	

### WALK THE TALK

1. What was most helpful or interesting in this account?
2. What did you learn about our responsibility to “render?”  
What should we be rendering to our government? To God?
3. How would you apply this teaching personally?



January 21 & 22, 2017 | Testing Jesus #4 | Luke 20:20-26 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. In seven consecutive stories we see Jesus being TESTED, and we see Him testing the DOUBTERS.
2. Jesus is the ONLY exception to the rule that “*You can fool all of the people some of the time.*”

### LET’S REVIEW

1. Jesus is in the LAST few days of His EARTHLY life, and He is TEACHING in the Temple courts giving people one LAST chance to know and follow Him. (euaggelizō)

*Luke 20:1 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news,*

2. The chief priests, teachers of the law and elders had questioned His AUTHORITY, but He stymied them with a question that they could NOT answer.
3. Jesus told the SAME group of people a parable that taught the story of the ENTIRE Old Testament.
4. Jesus called Himself the “CORNERSTONE” which is the perfect stone that DEFINES the house. Because of this story, the leaders tried to arrest Jesus immediately and stop His TEACHING once and for all.

## THE SCRIPTURES

*Luke 20:20 Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. 21 So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”*

*Luke 20:23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 “Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.*

*Luke 20:25 He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”*

*Luke 20:26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent. (NIV 2011)*

## THE SETTING

1. Jesus is STILL on the Temple mount with only 2 or 3 days until the crucifixion and He is STILL teaching.
2. Jesus is immensely POPULAR and, therefore, He can’t be arrested PUBLICLY without causing a riot.
3. So, the leaders of the people choose to “watch Him closely” and SEND some DISHONEST spies. (ἐγκάθετος egkathetos —“secretly to lie in wait, a spy”.)
4. The goal was to get Jesus to SAY something that would DEFY Roman law and therefore be arrested by the government. This way, the Jewish leaders could DENY involvement.

*Luke 20:20 . . . They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.*

## THE SET UP

1. The spies BEGIN with the word “TEACHER,” which was a most respected title. (What authority?)
2. The spies wanted to FLATTER Jesus so that He would think that they were SINCERE in their question.

*John 2:25 He did not need man’s testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.*

3. The ACTUAL question followed, “*Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?*” (Give these leaders some CREDIT. They are learning how to ask BETTER questions.)

*The issue of taxes in first-century Israel — POLL Tax*

## The problem with answering this question —

*Luke 23:1 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”*

## THE SOLUTION

1. Luke reminds us that Jesus was not FOOLED by people who pretended or flattered.

*Luke 20:23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them,*

2. As Jesus often did, He used a VISUAL AID to provide a lesson. He requested a particular coin; a DENARIUS.

*Luke 20:23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 “Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?”*

— Most Jews would not CARRY this coin because it had an IMAGE and they were NOT allowed “graven images.”

*Ex. 20:4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*

— The denarius held the image of CEASAR himself, and finally someone PROVIDED the coin. (One day’s wage)

3. Jesus now asked a QUESTION of His own, “*Who’s portrait and inscription are on this coin?*” These two items indicate OWNERSHIP.

4. The people responded immediately, and then Jesus gave them TWO answers:

a. *Render to Caesar . . .* — Render is the word ἀποδίδωμι apodidōmi which includes the concept of “giving BACK or a DEBT that needs to be paid.”

b. *And to God, what is God’s* — WE BELONG to God because we bear His IMAGE. Everything we have is HIS!

*Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, . . .*

## THE SILENCE

*Luke 20:26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.*

There are three results for Jesus’ enemies: FAILURE  
ASTONISHMENT and SILENCE.

*Your thoughts?*