

(6) Tribute to Caesar (Mt. 22:15-22; Mk. 12:13-17; Lk. 20:20-26)

1. The Lord's enemies are dedicated to His death, but still prefer to find a "lawful" way to make it happen.
 - a. Matthew's trap. παγιδεύω pagideuō ^{#3802}_{Hap.} rel. to παγίς pagis ^{#3803}_{5x}: *snare* (1st Tim. 3:7; 6:9; 2nd Tim. 2:26).
 - b. Mark's trap. ἀγρεύω agreuō ^{#64}_{Hap.} (LXX Pr. 5:22; 6:25,26) rel. to ἄγρα agra ^{#61}_{2x}: *catch* (Lk. 5:4,9).
 - c. Luke's trap. ἐπιλαμβάνομαι epilambanomai ^{#1949}_{19x} (Lk. 20:20,26).
2. An interesting partnership between Pharisees and Herodians attempts to lock Jesus into an either/or dilemma. The poll-tax was supported by the Herodians and hated by the Pharisees.
 - a. Siding with the Herodians would diminish Jesus' popularity among the Jewish population at large.
 - b. Siding with the Pharisees would mark Jesus as hostile to Caesar.
3. Their phony praise does communicate an interesting perspective to the Lord's public reputation (Mt. 22:16; Mk. 12:14; Lk. 20:21).
4. Matthew, Mark & Luke record the Lord's awareness of His enemies' malice, hypocrisy & trickery.
 - a. πονηρία ponēria ^{#4189}_{7x}: *wickedness, malice* (Mt. 22:18; cf. Lk. 11:39; Rom. 1:29; 1st Cor. 5:8).
 - b. ὑπόκρισις hupokrisis ^{#5272}_{6x}: *play-acting, pretense, outward show* (Mk. 12:15; cf. Mt. 23:28; Lk. 12:1).
 - c. πανουργία panourgia ^{#3834}_{5x}: *craftiness, trickery* (Lk. 20:23; cf. 1st Cor. 3:19; 2nd Cor. 4:2; 11:3; Eph. 4:14).
5. Jesus' answer was simple yet brilliant, and teaches a vital doctrine for personal application.
 - a. All three gospels employ ἀποδίδωμι apodidōmi ^{#591}_{48x}: *render*.
 - b. Rendering to Caesar means providing government's due allegiance (Rom. 13:1-7; 1st Pet. 2:13-17).
 - c. The image of Caesar identifies the sovereignty of the authorized minted coinage (tokens of accepted value).
 - d. Rendering to God means providing God's due allegiance even if it means defying government's unrighteous demands (Dan. 2:21; 3:16-18; 4:17,32; 6:10,22,23; Acts 4:19; 5:29).
 - e. The image of God identifies the sovereignty of God over all humanity (tokens of accepted value).