

## RENDER TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S!

Lessons from our Lord Jesus' all wise reproof of the wicked leaders  
concerning God and government  
Matthew 22:15-22

- I. **A QUESTION CONCERNING TAXES DESIGNED TO ENTRAP: The hypocritical wicked hardened Pharisees plot and execute a trick question designed to trap Jesus in His words so that they might then be able to have Him killed (15-17)**
  - A. **The context (“Then”):** Jesus had just finished condemning the religious leaders with three parables and they wanted to destroy Him (15a, Matt 21:49, Lk. 20:19)
  
  - B. **A wicked plot enacted:** The Pharisees then hatch a wicked plot to trip Him up in His words so that they could deliver him to Roman governor (15-17)
    1. A wicked plot hatched by wicked people (15-16a, 18)
  
    2. Their truthful flattery used to disarm and entrap (16b)
  
    3. Their trick (loaded) question: “Is it lawful to give Poll tax to Caesar?” (17)
  
- II. **A PERFECTLY WISE ANSWER THAT ALSO REVEALS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD AND GOVERNMENT: Jesus, knowing their wicked testing, destroys their trap and leaves us an important principle concerning rendering what we owe to government and God (18-22)**
  - A. **An open rebuke and all wise reproof:** Jesus, knowing their evil motives, reproves them outright and with a proverbial saying which says it all (18-21)
  
  - B. **A principle established:** “...render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (21, Romans 13, Titus 3, 1 Pet. 2 Misc. passages )
  
  - C. **An eternally sad response:** They marveled at the wisdom of His reproof of them yet they walked away (22)