

World's Hypocrisy
Mark 12:13-17
January 5, 2014

Introduction

Part One

First, I want us to look at 2014 as the year that we examine ourselves and perform our open heart surgery. In March, I will be taking a break from the gospel of Mark and start a new series on Christian character. This will go for 10 Sundays. At the same time, I will be creating a Sunday School lesson that goes along with the sermon for Allen and Vickie. Having a right theology is very important, but having theology applied to the heart is, quite possibly, even more important. My prayer is that we have our open heart surgery with Scripture as the knife and allow the Holy Spirit to change us. I pray that He changes us in how we think, how we act, privately and publicly, and how we live. My prayer is that we become Christlike.

Second, I will be going to Mexico this summer as well as Jonathan, although we are going at two different times. It is interesting that God is calling both of us to Mexico, and I would like the church to pray to God and ask for His wisdom as to see if that is His will for us as a church to pursue Mexico for our mission field.

Finally, in March we will be having the Ladies' Luncheon. I want to challenge our men to create something for men in the Fall. It doesn't have to be Men's luncheon, but something that will benefit men in the Greater Charlotte area. The most successful ministry is when the congregation takes up the responsibility rather than the pastor and do the work. I ask the men of our church to pray for God's guidance and wisdom to further His kingdom.

Part Two

The world is hypocritical. They claim to love all people but show hatred for those they do not see as their own. They will try to trap people with false graciousness, but then when the trap is sprung, they will attack them. It is especially true of Christians. It is even true of Jesus who was hypocritically attacked many times in His ministry. In the last few days, the enemies have repeatedly tried to trap Him into compromising statements or actions but they could find no fault in Him.

Jesus had just told them a parable that they understood the meaning. He basically told them that they are going to kill Him just as they did with the prophets. He also told them that God was going to take them out of the picture and give His stewardship to someone else, namely the Apostles. They are angered by His statements and they intensify the attacks. Mark gives us the first attack.

Mark 12:13-17

13 *Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words.*

- They sent
 - Sanhedrin--70 rulers plus the High Priest (71)
- Pharisees and Herodians
 - Unlikely alliance

- Pharisees--religious, concerned about Law of God, devoted to Israel
- Herodians--political, concerned about law of Rome, devoted to Rome
- Pharisees hated the Herodians
- Temporarily useful alliance
 - Pharisees wanted to destroy Jesus
 - Rome does not arrest or kill based on religion
 - They bring Herodians to check to see if Jesus was anti-Rome
 - To see if Jesus was threat to the peace of Israel
 - Sanhedrin wanted to show Rome that Jesus was a threat
- The trap
 - Matthew says that they planned it out (**22:15**)
 - Luke adds that they were spies who pretended to be religious (**20:20**)

14 *When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"*

- Flattery
 - Teacher--They do not believe for a minute that He is the teacher (unauthorized)
 - You are true...teach the way of God in truth
 - It is interesting that what they say is 100% true
 - However, they did not believe a word of what they said
 - They are laying it thick to flatter Him...to butter Him up and then spring the trap
- Taxes
 - Is it lawful for us to pay taxes?
 - Is it Lawful according to God's Law for us to pay taxes?
 - taxes--all kind of taxes (census tax (yearly tax), land tax, etc)
 - They were expecting "no" as an answer
 - No we should not be paying
 - The trap
 - If Jesus said that, then Herodians would have told Rome about Jesus' anti-tax sentiments
 - If Jesus said, yes we should pay taxes, then the people would have rejected Him
 - Why?
 - They consider Rome as idolatrous
 - To pay Rome would be supporting their practices

15 *Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it."*

- Jesus knew their hypocrisy--His omniscience

John 2:24-25 *But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, **25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.*

- Why are you testing Me?
- Bring Me a denarius

- Nobody would be carrying this
- Roman coin
- Jews only carried shekels (no inscription)

16 So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's."

- Whose portrait
 - Portrait of Caesar on front and inscription of his divine title on back
 - Caesar is considered divine--for Jews ultimate blasphemy
 - Jesus knew of Rome's idolatry
 - "Perfect opportunity" for Him to denounce Rome for the Jews

17 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.

- Render to Caesar
 - Profound statement
 - Caesar is the authority in the land, so give him his due
 - God is the one that instituted all governments in all history

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **4** For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. **5** Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. **7** Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, **14** or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

- Roman government is certainly not friendly to God
- However, they are there because of common grace
- Romans built Pax Romana
- They kept the peace in the land and provided for the people (roads, aqueducts, bridges)
- Render to God
 - This is far greater than paying Caesar
 - We belong to God
 - We are made in the image of God (our body has God's image stamped on us)
 - Jesus is challenging the hypocrites to dedicate themselves to God

- They marveled at Him
 - They knew what He was talking about
 - Conviction and exposure of their hypocrisy
 - However they did not repent of their hypocrisy

Luke 23:1-2 *Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."*

Conclusion

Hypocrisy. The world practices hypocrisy. True Christians can act hypocritically, but they do not practice it. They do not continue in hypocrisy. Only those of the world practices and lives fully in hypocrisy. This is the reason why we are not to be yoked with unbelievers. They do not care about us because we are not part of their world. We are strangers and aliens. Do not be surprised to find them being nice one day and then completely attack you. Be of good cheer, Jesus has already overcome this world!