

2009

Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Render to God those things that are God's

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Render to God those things that are God's

April 22, 2009

Bob Bradley

Mark 12:13-17

- 13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.*
- 14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?*
- 15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.*
- 16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.*
- 17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him.*

Keep in mind that this is on Tuesday. Jesus is going to die on Friday. This is the Tuesday before He is going to die. We talked about last week, or week before last; a certain man had a vineyard. We talked about that parable and we are not going to go over all of that. However, when Jesus spoke the parable and was rebuking them, telling them what they did and how that they treated the prophets and even what they were going to do Him. The religious leaders understood if you read verse 12...

- 12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.*

When Jesus spoke the parable here, then they understood that He was speaking about them and how that He was rebuking them and denouncing them. That upset them. The ones that we are talking about here, if you will go back over to chapter 11, verse 27 you will find out that we are talking about the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. Therefore, that is who Jesus is dealing with here. When He is dealing with the parable here and all the things that He had been doing; some things are going to change here now. When they heard the parable and understood that He was talking to them and about them, look what happens.

They send Pharisees and Herodians

- 13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.*

“And they send...” The chief priests, the scribes and the elders when they understood that Jesus was rebuking them and telling them about all that they did in killing the prophets, the stoning and so forth and they are going to kill Him. Therefore, the chief priests, the scribes and the elders instead of coming

back themselves, they are going to send the Pharisees and Herodians. When you read this in some of the translations, it brings out the idea that they are sending some of their disciples or some of their students or someone that is maybe not as well learned in the Law or religious things as they are. They were setting them up as they were Jesus.

13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

The Pharisees were also a religious crowd. Not only do we have the Pharisees but we have the Sadducees. We had different groups. The Pharisees believed in the afterlife, spirit world, angels and they believed in many things like that. Well, the Sadducees believed the opposite of that. They did not believe in an afterlife. They did not believe in angels. They did not believe many different things.

As in our world today, there are all kinds of different religions and all kinds of different churches teach all kinds of different things today. That is why it is so important that we know our Bible. That is why it is so important that we read and study our Bible readings.

I know that Kings and Chronicles sometimes get boring when we are reading through some of these things. I promise you that there are some good things in there that we can learn. We are getting into some stuff now that is going to be very good for you. Therefore, I would encourage you to read through that. I'm not telling you to study it necessarily as you read through it. I'm just telling you to read through it because it will acquaint you with some things that are in there and it will show you some things that are not in there. It is just good to know.

Herodians—a political party

They are sending the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. They are sending the Pharisees here, but they are also going to send somebody else here. The Bible says they also sent the Herodians. You don't hear much about the Herodians in the scriptures. The Herodians were not religious at all. They were a political party.

We have all kinds of different parties now. We have democrats, republicans, green, independent, and we have many kinds of different parties in our land today.

The Herodians were a political party. It is quite remarkable that the Pharisees came with the Herodians because they hated one another. They did not like one another not even a little bit. Yet, in their opposition of Jesus and in their hate towards Jesus; it is amazing how enemies join hands sometimes. That is what they are going to do here. Even though they hated one another, they had one common enemy and that was Jesus. Now, they put all their differences aside and come together with one thing in mind and that is to get rid of Jesus Christ. That is something isn't it. We see that today.

We see that today in people making deals in our world everywhere. We see all kinds of foes coming together to get rid of a common enemy.

They were a political party. They were Herodians. They were loyal to Herod which is where they get their name as Herodians. They were a political part. They did not believe in anything about the afterlife. When you read about the Herodians, religion was the furthest thing from their mind. These were not

religious people. They probably did not know much as I read about them. They probably did not know much about temple worship. They did not know much about Jehovah God. They were very loyal to Herod. However, you have the Pharisees, being a religious group and now you have the Herodians being a political group; they are coming together now to do something.

Catch Him in His words

13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

The word “catch” is a good word. If you read the word in the Greek it brings out the idea of someone setting a trap to try to catch a wild animal. This is really what they were doing. They were trying to set a trap to catch Jesus in. They were trying to set a trap to catch Him in His words.

These guys, the Herodians and the Pharisees, they were not stupid people. They were learned people. They were educated people. Yet, they had one common thing in mind and that was to get rid of Jesus Christ. They hated Him.

Jesus had been teaching and preaching that He is the Messiah, He is the King of Israel and the Herodians were loyal to Herod. They did not want to believe what He had to say. The Pharisees’ lifestyle of being crooks as they were. Even though they were religious, they were crooks. They were not going to accept Jesus as their Messiah because that would mean that they would have to change the way they lived, or give up their position or some of things that they were doing. Therefore, neither one of these groups wanted to have anything to do with Jesus. They one thing they were doing; they wanted to trap Him. They wanted to put forth some kind of a scenario where they could get Him to say something that both sides or at least one side would have some way to trap Him and make Him lose face among the people. Keep that in mind.

That is what this visit here by the Herodians and the Pharisees is all about. They are trying to lay a trap to get Jesus to say a word or some group of words that He will either lose face with the religious crowd or He will either lose face with the political crowd. That is what they are trying to do.

I felt sorry for the lady in the beauty pageant the other night. Basically, the guy that asked her the question; it was a loaded question. There is no way on earth, whatever she answered was not going to be right with half the party. They asked her a question about marriage. She made the statement that she felt like and with her family that marriage is a man and a woman. The sad part about it is the guy that asked it is a pervert anyway. I don’t care to say that.

That is what they were trying to do. They were trying to catch Jesus in some kind of a word, or group of words that He would lose face with somebody. Somebody would be upset with Him.

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

--I wasn’t watching the Miss USA pageant either, just to let you know that. I saw that on the news today.

The Bait—Flattery

“...when they were come, they say unto him, Master...” Look what they do. The first thing they do—the Pharisees and Herodians—the first thing they say is “Master.” When people are trying to lay traps for people, one they always do in the beginning is that they use flattery. Everybody knows that don’t they. Probably some of us have tried that before. However, it does not work. Spiritual people know that. Don’t they? Anyway, they are using flattery. They said, “Master” or “Teacher.” They did not believe Him as being a teacher or being a master. They did not believe that. However, they were going to say these words even though He was the Master, they did not really believe that. They were using these words as flattery. They thought that Jesus thought the same way as they thought.

I was talking to somebody the other day about people who were liars. They made a statement that I really never thought about. A liar thinks that everybody is a liar. A liar thinks that the way they do things and say things that everybody else does things the same way.

The Pharisees and Herodians thought that by using flattery they could get what they wanted. They thought that everybody thought the way that they thought. They thought that when they were flattered or when someone patted them on the back, how they got exalted in themselves. It really made them want to do something for somebody. Therefore, they thought they could come to Jesus and use a little flattery and just get Him to let down His guard just a little bit and not be so cautious on His Words. They thought they could use flattery to trap Him.

We know that thou art true

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

That is really saying something. Isn’t it? They say, “...Master, we know that thou art true...” That is true. There was nothing wrong with the statement they made, but they did not really believe the statement they made. They made the statement again just to try to butter Him up, to try to flatter Him to get Him to let down His guard so that He would feel more comfortable around them. However, He was smarter than all that. Again, Jesus did not, was not, did not, and does not think as men think.

Flattery doesn’t make Him change His opinion about sin. Even though we brag on Him and tell Him how great He is, He still understands, and still proclaims sin as being sin whether it is in my life or whose life it is in. We might say all kinds of great things about Him but that does not change His mind about my sin or your sin. That’s great. Isn’t it? It’s wonderful that it is that way.

No Partiality

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

The word “know” is “knowledge” actually. We have knowledge, an understanding that thou art true. In other words, we know that you don’t tell lies. Again, they are trying to flatter Him. “...and carest for no

man..." In other words they are saying that we know that you don't look at men individually. You don't have partiality. In other words, you don't look at one individual one way and another individual another way. You are not partial.

"...for thou regardest not the person of men..." In other words, you are not impressed by men. We understand that. You are not impressed by men's knowledge. You are not impressed about what men know or men's position. You are not impressed by that. You are not partial. You are impartial. You don't treat anybody differently. You treat everybody right. We know that you are the master.

They go on and say "...but teachest the way of God in truth..." They are really buttering Him up. They are really saying some great things about Him. Everything they are saying about Him is truth, but they don't really believe it. Had they believed that He was the Master, had they believed that He didn't really regard men, had they believed that He did not lie and all the things that were saying about Him; had they really honestly believed that then they would have lived differently.

We say that we love Jesus Christ and still yet live like the world then we are a liar. When we really love Jesus Christ then we don't live like the world lives. We don't talk like the world talks. We don't tell filthy jokes. We don't do all the things that the world is doing. We don't use drugs. We don't commit adultery. We don't steal. We don't lie. We don't do any of those things if we say that we love Jesus Christ and if we really love Him, we don't do those things.

These guys here were using all kinds of flattery. They were saying all kinds of things about Him that was truth; however, they did not really believe it. They were saying these things to get Him to try to lay down His guard a little bit so they could sneak on the inside and get Him to say or do something so that they could catch Him in their trap.

The word "catch" means as you would trap a wild animal. Here, when they are using the flattery; flattery is the bait. Flattery is the bait. Just like you put bait on a trap; if you go out here and try to trap whatever you are trying to trap. You have to have some kind of bait there. You just cannot take a bear trap out there without any bait on it. You just can't take it out there and expect to catch anything. Flattery here was the bait. That is what they were using. They used that because they knew it worked on them. However, they were not dealing with an ordinary person. They were dealing with Jesus Christ. They were dealing with the Son of God.

Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

Here's the question. They are doing all this flattery. They are doing all this patting on the back. They are telling Him how great that He is and they say "...Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

I never thought much about this question until I started digging into this just a little bit. When we read that, for years I just read over top of that and didn't really think much about it. However, as you look into this there was a reason for the question. The reason for the question was this.

Again the political people that were here were the Herodians. The spiritual people here were the Pharisees. Not only two complete opposites—one was spiritual and one was political. The Pharisees thought that any monies that were collected, any monies that were given by the populous, by the people was to go into the temple, into the work of Almighty God. That is what they believed. The

Herodians here were the complete opposite of that. The Herodians believed that people should be taxed and that tax should be taken and given to Caesar. Caesar is the king. That is what the Herodians believed. They did not believe that you should give any money to this so-called God because they did not believe in the God of heaven. They did not believe that you should give any money toward that. They wanted to take all the money and give it to Caesar.

Not only were they on different sides, as far as, spiritual and political, but also on the question of taxes “Is it lawful to give unto Caesar?” That is what the question is. “Do we pay taxes to Caesar or not?” They were completely different on that view also. In other words, their views were completely different. The Pharisees says “Let’s take the money and put it in the temple of God and put it to God’s work. The Herodians says “Let’s take all the money and give it to Caesar and let Caesar do what he wants to with it. They had two completely different views. That’s the question. “Is it lawful to tribute to Caesar, or not?”

Hypocrisy

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

“Shall we give, or shall we not give?” That was the question. Do we pay taxes? Should we pay taxes? Should we take our money and give it Caesar?”

The Bible says, “...But he, knowing their hypocrisy...” In other words, He knew what they were trying to do to Him. He knew that they were just playing a game. He knew that they were just putting on a mask. That is what the word “hypocrisy” or “hypocrite” means. They were portraying to be one individual but on the inside they were somebody completely different.

These guys here were playing an act. Jesus knew they were playing a game. He knew that they were just putting on, and were acting. He understood that.

Why tempt ye me?

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

He understood their hypocrisy. He understood they were trying to trap Him. He says, “Why are you tempting me? Why are you doing that?” The word “tempt” means “to test.” There is a good test.

We build bridges. I read a story somewhere about that they built a big railroad bridge and as soon as they got it fixed they pulled a train with all these loaded box cars out on it and let it set there for so long. Someone asked, “Why are you doing that for? Why are you pulling all this weight? It will never have that much on it at one time. Why are you putting all this weight on this bridge for?” The guys who built it said, “We want to put it to the test to make sure that it does not fall. We want to make sure that is going to hold up under the load that it is under.”

Jesus understood that these guys were not putting Him to the test to bring out the good in Him; but they were putting Him to the test to try to bring out some evil about Him. They were trying to get Him to do something that was wrong.

Bring me a penny

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

They bring Him a penny. He says, "Whose is this image?" In other words, "Whose picture is this on here?" He says also, "Whose superscription is on here?" In other words, "Whose title is it?" The coin had a picture of Caesar imprinted on one side of it and on the other side of it had Caesar's title. It had Caesar's picture and it also had Caesar's title. Jesus asked a question, "Whose picture is this? Whose title is this?" They said, "Caesar's."

Here's the good part.

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's

17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him.

Jesus did not say that we shouldn't pay taxes. He didn't say that. I'm going to say this too.

I heard the last couple of days, and I don't know how this poll is conducted. I don't know what group was polled. They said who did it, but a lot of things about it, I don't know. However, the poll said 70% of the American people do not agree with the direction we are going. 70% does not think that the tax situation that we have is right. They give all these different numbers about all this different stuff. That may be the case; however, just because I don't agree with the system does not give me the right not to pay to Caesar what Caesar demands. Our government, whether we like our system or whether we don't like our system; we still yet live here. Do you know what Caesar does for us? Caesar provides a lot of things for us. Our government has the responsibility for law and order. The government has a responsibility to protect you and me. The government has the responsibility to provide certain things for you and me. They have that responsibility. Since they have that responsibility, it also falls on us to have the responsibility to pay for those things.

Jesus was not teaching here to not give to Caesar. He was not saying it was okay not to pay taxes.

We see all kinds of people today; in the last several months—actually it has been going on for years—but it has been more out in the light in the last several months that we see all kinds of people in politics that has not paid their taxes. There is hundreds of thousands of dollars that people have not paid. "Oh I've just forgotten that." I don't how you would forget that, but you may be you do. I don't know. However, you see all kinds of people that is not doing that and they try to justify that by different means. We live in a society that we may not necessarily agree with how that society is operated. We may not think that our tax situation is right and it may not be. However, that gives us no right to rebel against Caesar. That's truth. We may not like it. We may not like the situation. We may not like the system.

The tax here that he is talking about is a poll tax. What that means is that every individual paid tax. Here's the good part. I'd like to go back to this tax system today. I think it was from 12 years old to sixty-five, you paid tax. Your tax for the whole year was one day's wage. For the whole year your tax was one day's wage. Even though that has risen a tad since then, that still yet does not give us any right.

What Jesus is saying here is that we have some responsibility for those in authority on planet earth. We are citizens here. We enjoy freedom here. We enjoy water. We enjoy sewage. We enjoy police forces and all the things that are here even though it may not be perfect and we know that it is not. I promise you something, if you take all that away then our life gets a whole lot worse real quick. All you have to do is just go to some of these other countries and you will see what I am talking about.

Not only are we a citizen here of planet earth and we have some responsibilities here to those in authority over us to pay taxes so that we can have the freedoms and the liberties that we have and the luxuries that we have here. You might not think that it is. However, just read a little bit or just look a little bit how the majority of the world lives in comparison to how we live here in America. Do you know what you will find out? You will find out that we are a very blessed people here, my friend.

If we did not pay taxes, we would blow it on something else anyway. We are human. We blow it on something else.

...and to God the things that are God's

Not only do we have a responsibility here on earth to pay tax and not only are we citizens here but He says "...render to Caesar those things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." I've got a responsibility to live right and to do right and to be a good citizen here and to obey the law here on planet earth, to pay my taxes. Whether I think they are ten times too high, that is immaterial. My responsibility is that I have to pay them. If I don't pay them, they should come and lock me up. Truth?

But at the same token, you and I have a responsibility to Almighty God.

Our system...on planet earth; our law, order, government, infrastructure, the roads and all that is here; we pay tax to be able to have that luxury: to be able to drive on; to have water; to have electric; and turn it up if we want to be warmer or down if we want to be cooler. That is a luxury that we have.

However, by the same token we have a responsibility to Almighty God. In everything about you and me; our life, breath, health, happiness, joy and all those things that we can have comes from Almighty God. Our very existence here on planet earth, whether saved or not saved, comes from Almighty God. He is the one that created you and me. He is the one that brought us on planet earth. God did that. **It is our responsibility to reverence Him in our lives, to understand that He is God.** He is the one that blesses us to have all the things that we have here on planet earth. He is the one that instituted government. He is the one who put all these things into play. Not only to thank Him for those things and to worship Him and praise Him for that, but also our lives everyday should be that we are recognizing Him as being whom He is. He is God. He is the Supreme Being. He is the Eternal One. He is the One that demanded the death of His Son on Calvary that I could be saved, that I could escape the torments of a lake of fire. He is the One who has done all that. He is the One who gives me Eternal life.

He is the One who blesses me. He is the One that makes me happy. He is the One that gives me breath every day. It is all Him. He is the One that does all that.

We need to render unto God those things that are God's. We get mixed up sometimes in life. We get mixed up in how that we do things and go about things. Listen, we need to be good citizens here on earth. We need to be respectable citizens. We need to be law abiding citizens. Above all that we need to be respectful citizens because we are citizens of heaven. We need to render to God those things that are God's. We need to reverence Him and worship Him. **It is the whole duty of man to fear God and keep His commandments.** That is our responsibility.

Created by Him, for Him

God created us to love Him, to worship Him and to praise Him. We have departed from that in a lot of ways. We need to render to God those things that are God's. Let's worship Him.

Come—