



who is Jesus? MARK THE GOSPEL OF

Discussion Questions

1. Read Mark 12:13-17
2. Why do you think the Pharisees and Herodians asked Jesus this “question of the coin”?
3. So far in Mark, Jesus has been setting Himself up as the Messiah, the promised king of Israel and had also been challenging the authority of the religious leaders. So the Pharisees (religious leaders) and the Herodians (supporters of King Herod who worked for the Romans) had good reason to dislike Jesus. Ron mentioned that there had been a man named Judas of Galilee who had come before Jesus and led a rebellion against the Romans against paying this tax. His rebellion was crushed by the Romans. What were they trying to do?
4. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”?
5. Ron stated that as Canadians we rely on our government to provide us with many services; to uphold the law, keep the peace, ensure the infrastructure of our society runs, etc. And so we must pay our taxes. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. He goes on to say, “I’m concerned that in our country, we... expect [the government] to define our common values, we expect them to explain to us how to live... when really we should be relying on God.”
6. What are the areas where the government, or your job, or society attempts to define morality and values? Why is it tempting to let them do so?
7. What does it look like to give to Caesar what is Caesars, but give to God what is God’s?
8. What happens if there are consequences for following God? What if we lose our jobs, or are ostracized, or are arrested?
9. The Herodians supported the Romans because the Romans allowed Herod to have power. The Pharisees didn’t support the Romans because they hated having Gentiles rule over them. But neither group wanted to follow Jesus because doing so would mean change and sacrifice. What are some things you are struggling to change or sacrifice for Jesus the king?