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Render To Caesar the things that are Caesars.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

Some believe Jesus words, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" means pay tax's to Caesar and pay a tithe of ten percent of your wages to God. This study is about seeing if this is what Jesus had in mind or whether he had something else in mind when he said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

RENDER TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S

- **Luke 20:24-25:** So they (the spies the chief priests sent) asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²²Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" ²³But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴"Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." ²⁵He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

To understand exactly what Jesus was saying, it helps to have a clear understanding of the context Jesus spoke these words in. Prior to Jesus saying, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a colt with the people praising and worshipping him as the King who comes in the name of the Highest (Luke 19:35-38). Jesus looked at Jerusalem and wept over it (Luke 19:41) and then said, "If only Jerusalem had known the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42). He then drove out of Jerusalem all those who were doing business in the Temple (Luke 19:45) and told the people the Temple of the LORD is a House of prayer not a place to operate worldly businesses (Luke 19:46). After this he told the parable of the wicked tenants which the scribes and the chief priests perceived he had told against them, he also told the scribes and Pharisees that God will reject them because they reject Christ (Luke 20:9-19) and that Jerusalem will be destroyed (Luke 19:44).

After this the chief priest's, Pharisees and scribes knowing that Jesus was speaking against them sought to kill Jesus (Luke 19:47) so they sent spies to ask him difficult questions to trap him in what he says (Luke 20:19-21). The spies thinking, they will trap Jesus ask him, "Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" Jesus says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" and then asks them, "Whose face is on the coin?" Of course, they say, "Caesar's" it is then that Jesus says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Jesus is fully aware that the Pharisees spies were full of malice and hypocrisy and were asking this question not because they really wanted to know the answer, but foolishly believing they could trap him by their wisdom. It is glorious to notice every time the prideful religious leaders attempted to trap Jesus in conversation, he turned the entire conversation back onto them and they were always left standing dumbfounded and without an answer.

THE DENARIUS IS A MOST AMAZING COIN

On the denarius coin Caesar's name is spelled out entirely to the right of his head with the following letters CAESARAVGVSTVS and to the left of his head the following Latin abbreviations all run together DIVIMPPATERPATRIAE which means:

- DIV: Divine.

- IMP: Imperator (a Roman Emperor and absolute ruler).
- PATER PATRIAE: Father of his country.

On the reverse side is the figures of two Caesar's and above and around the figures are the Latin abbreviations VGVSPONCOSTRPGER which mean:

- AVG: Augustus.
- PON: Pontifex Maximus (religious ruler or Highest Priest).
- COS: Consulship.
- TRP: Tribunica Potestate (Tribune power civil head of the state).

Below the images is the word CAESARES the Latin for Caesars. From this coin alone one can discern that the Roman Emperor was an absolute monarch head of both state and religion. A great deal of literature was included on the small face of the denarius. Lengthy lettering is around the image of Domitian who reigned from AD 81-96 (he probably exiled John to Patmos). The lettering proceeds below the image clockwise around the coin is as follows:

- IMP:Imperator (a Roman Emperor and absolute ruler).
- CAES: Caesar (the title of king not his name).
- DOMIT: Domitian (his given name) (Praenomen).
- AUG: Augustus (most distinctive title).
- GERM: Germanicus or German (a hereditary title).
- PM: Pontifex maximus (head of the empire's religion).
- TRP: Tribunica potestate (supreme civil head, representative of the people).

On the reverse side: is the image of Mars, god of war, holding a spear and a shield. When the nation was at peace, he was pictured carrying an olive branch, but not in the days of Domitian. Around the image of Mars reading left to right are the words:

IMP: Imperator (a Roman Emperor and absolute ruler).

XX11: means date of 90 AD.

COS XV1: 16TH consulship (about 90 AD).

CENS PER: Censor Perpetuus (another title of the chief of state granted for lifetime, hence perpetual).

Seldom does one see so much said in so little space, but since there were no newspapers in those days and Roman emperors knew people read the legends on the coins, they went to great trouble to change them sometimes once a year. The government placed as much information on its money as they could so the denarius not only served as a medium of exchange, but also to disseminate information and propaganda for the emperor especially information that glorified the emperor. The denarius was a silver coin and the most common Roman coin during the days of the apostles. Roman army pay was a denarius a day which means at the time of the apostles a day's wages was one denarius (Matt 20:2, 10). Paul gave two days wages plus to take care of the Samaritan (Luke 10:35). Jesus and the disciples had two-hundred days wages (John 6:1-21). Mary anointed Jesus with oil worth three-hundred days wages (John 12:3-5). Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty-days wages (Matt 26:15) and in the last

days a quart of wheat will cost one day's wages (Rev. 6:5-6). Since the denarius very clearly has Caesar's face and name on it and not God's it is obvious to all that the things that are Caesar's refers to money since the entire money system belonged to the Roman Emperors not God, but money is not the only thing that belonged to Caesar all the laws that Rome had established also belonged to Caesar. Jesus is very brilliantly using denarius to say that even as Christians we should still pay taxes to the worldly authorities and obey the laws of their governments. But Jesus is not implying with the words "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" that we should be paying a ten-percent tax or tithe of all our wages to God as some today teach.

I remember being in a church in which the minister was teaching this verse and telling his congregation that they if they expect to be blessed, they should be rendering ten-percent of their wages to God (meaning to him and his church). One member asked, "Should we tithe on our gross income or our net income?" to which he answered, "That depends whether you want gross blessings or net blessings." This is a total distorting of what Jesus is teaching and a clear example of a man being deceived or using the Scriptures for his own selfish gain. The things that are God's are the teachings of Jesus and his disciples and tithing is not included in any of their teachings. The things that are God's are the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., humbleness, love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace forgiveness and such like things), doing good to others, helping the poor when able and worship and praise. The principal Jesus is teaching from Denarius coin is to obey the authorities and laws of the country and give to God the reverence honour and worship due to Him by doing-good and showing mercy grace and love to others this is what it means to render unto God the things that are God's. These are not only the things that are God's and that we are to render to God, but are also the true riches of God and the things that honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes) were not doing any of these things.

NOTE: I am not saying that it is not a good thing to financially give from a free heart and willingly give to a ministry, but simply that it is wrong for any minister to use this verse and any other verse of Scripture to manipulate faithful brothers and sisters into giving from guilt and fear ten-percent of their wages or any other type of giving by cleverly twisting and distorting Scriptures.

For further information concerning tithing, see the title:

- Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).