

## (6) Tribute to Caesar (Mt. 22:15-22; Mk. 12:13-17; Lk. 20:20-26)

1. The Lord's enemies are dedicated to His death, but still prefer to find a "lawful" way to make it happen.
  - a. Matthew's trap. παγιδεύω pagideuō <sup>#3802</sup><sub>Hap.</sub> rel. to παγίς pagis <sup>#3803</sup><sub>5x</sub>: *snare* (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 3:7; 6:9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 2:26).
  - b. Mark's trap. ἀγρεύω agreuō <sup>#64</sup><sub>Hap.</sub> (LXX Pr. 5:22; 6:25,26) rel. to ἄγρα agra <sup>#61</sup><sub>2x</sub>: *catch* (Lk. 5:4,9).
  - c. Luke's trap. ἐπιλαμβάνομαι epilambanomai <sup>#1949</sup><sub>19x</sub> (Lk. 20:20,26).
2. An interesting partnership between Pharisees and Herodians attempts to lock Jesus into an either/or dilemma. The poll-tax was supported by the Herodians and hated by the Pharisees.
  - a. Siding with the Herodians would diminish Jesus' popularity among the Jewish population at large.
  - b. Siding with the Pharisees would mark Jesus as hostile to Caesar.
3. Their phony praise does communicate an interesting perspective to the Lord's public reputation (Mt. 22:16; Mk. 12:14; Lk. 20:21).
4. Matthew, Mark & Luke record the Lord's awareness of His enemies' malice, hypocrisy & trickery.
  - a. πονηρία ponēria <sup>#4189</sup><sub>7x</sub>: *wickedness, malice* (Mt. 22:18; cf. Lk. 11:39; Rom. 1:29; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 5:8).
  - b. ὑπόκρισις hypokrisis <sup>#5272</sup><sub>6x</sub>: *play-acting, pretense, outward show* (Mk. 12:15; cf. Mt. 23:28; Lk. 12:1).
  - c. πανουργία panourgia <sup>#3834</sup><sub>5x</sub>: *craftiness, trickery* (Lk. 20:23; cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 3:19; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:2; 11:3; Eph. 4:14).
5. Jesus' answer was simple yet brilliant, and teaches a vital doctrine for personal application.
  - a. All three gospels employ ἀποδίδωμι apodidōmi <sup>#591</sup><sub>48x</sub>: *render*.
  - b. Rendering to Caesar means providing government's due allegiance (Rom. 13:1-7; 1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:13-17).
  - c. The image of Caesar identifies the sovereignty of the authorized minted coinage (tokens of accepted value).
  - d. Rendering to God means providing God's due allegiance even if it means defying government's unrighteous demands (Dan. 2:21; 3:16-18; 4:17,32; 6:10,22,23; Acts 4:19; 5:29).
  - e. The image of God identifies the sovereignty of God over all humanity (tokens of accepted value).