

Sermon Outline

CHALLENGE #2: FROM SECULAR SOCIETY | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Mark 12:13-17 (p.1445)

Mk 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to **kill** him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Mk 3:6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might **kill** Jesus.

1. "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

- a brilliant wedge tactic ...

Mk 1:15 But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to **trap** me?", he asked

Mk 1:12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, **being tempted by Satan**. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

2. What belongs to Caesar? What belongs to God?

i. Christians SHOULD pay their taxes!

ii. Everything in God's world ultimately belongs to God

- Christians have dual and overlapping obligations, responsibilities and allegiances

- the governing authorities are established by God (which is both a challenge and comfort)

Rom 13:1 **Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.** The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 **For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

iii. So what might civil disobedience look like in practice?

Ex 1: Hebrew midwives defying Pharaoh's command to kill all the Jewish baby boys
Dan 6: Daniel ignoring Darius's suppression of all religion except worship of the king
Acts 5: the Apostles rejoicing when flogged for preaching salvation in Christ alone

3. 3 models for Christian engagement with modern secular society ...

i. Reject

ii. Reform

- vote

- pray for our leaders

1 Tim 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

iii. Re-imagine ...

Explore (March 8/15/22/29)

Mk 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "**The kingdom of God has come near.** Repent and believe the good news!"

Mk 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

For discussion: which model do YOU tend towards? Why?

| Meet Jesus | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 1/2 | Enter the King | Mk 11:1-11 |
| 8/2 | A King to shake up the status quo | Mk 11:12-25 |
| 15/2 | Challenge #1: from the religious elite | Mk 11:27-12:12 |
| 22/2 | Challenge #2: from secular society | Mk 12:13-17 |
| 1/3 | Challenge #3: from human experience | Mk 12:18-27 |
| 8/3 | Challenge #4: from "religion" | Mk 12:28-34 |
| 15/3 | Challenge #5: from Jesus | Mk 12:35-44 |
| 22/3 | The End of the World | Mk 13:1-37 |
| 29/3 | The Last Supper | Mk 14:1-26 |
| 3/4 | Good Friday: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" | Mk 14:27-15:47 |
| 5/4 | Easter Sunday: "He has risen! He is not here!" | Mk 16:1-8 |