



Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

*Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32*

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TEXT: MATTHEW 22:15-22

TITLE: JESUS NEVER RAN FROM A GOOD FIGHT: PRIORITY OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION

- A. Many are reluctant to discuss Religion and/or Politics _____
- B. Why? Because it reveals a deeper, more intimate picture of who the person is _____
- C. It also provides insight into where one has pledged their allegiance _____

THE SETUP

- A. Goal of the setup – Trap Jesus into saying something that could get him in trouble _____
- B. Perpetrators of the setup _____
 - 1. The Disciples of the Pharisees
 - 2. The Herodians
 - 3. Note: The Pharisees and the Herodians were foes. However, they collaborated to destroy Jesus
- C. We should be prepared to be setup regarding our religious / political views _____
 - 1. Legalism versus Liberalism
 - 2. Citizen of Heaven versus Citizen of the world
 - 3. Understanding the human side of life
 - 4. Social Justice Ministry versus the Gospel of Jesus Christ

THE ASK

- A. “Tell us, therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” _____
- B. The question was designed to trap Jesus into aligning with one side and, thereby, alienating the other side. _____
 - 1. If Jesus said, “Yes” – He would side with the Herodians – If Jesus sided with the Herodians, he would lose the respect of the people
 - 2. If Jesus said, “No” – He would side with the Pharisees – If Jesus sided with the Pharisees, he would be accused of insurrection and arrested
- C. It would have been easy for Jesus to simply not answer _____
- D. It would be easy for us to simply concede, “I do not discuss religion not politics” _____

THE ANSWER

- A. Jesus did not retreat _____
- B. Jesus, “Why do you test me, you hypocrites?” _____
- C. Jesus reverses the question, “Whose image and inscription is this?” _____
- D. Jesus, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” _____
- E. It is important that we do not retreat _____
- F. It is important that we answer _____