

The Jerusalem Times

CONTROVERSIAL TEACHER ASTONISHES CRITICS

PART 2 IN THE SERIES, **HEADLINES:** THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

An Investigative Report by Pastor Grant Fishbook

Luke 20:20-22

Keeping a close watch on him, [the teachers of the law and the chief priests] sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the

governor. So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

The Trap:

If Jesus says yes, he is a traitor to both Israel and Judaism

If Jesus says no, he is traitor to Rome and its government

Luke 20:23-26

He saw through their duplicity and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

He said to them, "Then give back to

Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

Jesus Answers:

If it bears Caesar's image, give it back to Caesar

If it bears God's image, give it back to God

Logical Question: If the coin belongs to Caesar, then what belongs to God?

The Answer: You belong to God!

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body,

the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

(continues on back)

As an image bearer of God:

You are his (Genesis 1:26-27)

You are His in character (2 Peter 1:13-16)

You are His in mission (Luke 19:10)

You are His in transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18 and Romans 8:29)

The Key Question:

Whose image do you bear?

Next Steps

1. Respond to the “Easter Challenge”

- Pray for and invite 5 people to an Easter weekend service. Invitations available in the Commons today.

Write their names here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- Learn our Easter anthem, *Christ is Risen*, so we can raise a unified voice of celebration on Easter weekend. Free download at ctkbellingham.com/easter.
- Be on time on Easter weekend to make it easier for those who are unfamiliar with our parking lot and building.

2. Be more than an observer this Easter season.

Help reach our community by serving during Holy Week, Good Friday, or Easter Services (see opportunities listed in today’s program or at ctkbellingham.com/easter). Use the Connection Card to sign up today.

Small Group Questions



- 1) If you’re getting a tax refund this year, what are you going to do (or have you already done) with the money?
- 2) Who do you most resemble physically – your mother or your father? How about emotionally or temperamentally?
- 3) What practical implications do you see in “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” How does that teaching apply to your daily life?
- 4) How are you participating with Jesus in His mission to seek and save the lost this Easter?
- 5) What transformation is Jesus currently working on in your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?