



Never Trips





The religious leaders are nothing if not persistent. They ask two questions in their continuing attempts to try and trip up Jesus. As Jesus gets closer to the cross, He escalates the directness of His responses, in order to expose the wrongness of their views, and give evidence to the fact that He is the Messiah.



Rivals unite in order to attack Jesus.



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- **Pharisees**



Rivals unite in order to attack Jesus.

- Pharisees
- **Herodians**



Rivals unite in order to attack Jesus.

- Pharisees
- Herodians
- **Sadducees**



United rivals are devoted to tripping up Jesus.



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2 Questions:



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1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?



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2 Questions:

1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?
2. **Whose husband, will the woman widowed by 7 brothers, be in heaven?**



1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?



Mark 12:13-17

¹³ And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk.

¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.”



Mark 12:13-17

¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar's.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.



1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?



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The TRAP:



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If “yes”



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If “yes” – ticks off the Jews, Romans are oppressors



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If “no”



1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?

The TRAP:

If “yes” – ticks off the Jews, Romans are oppressors

If “no” – **ticks off the Roman officials, Jesus is a rebel**



Either answer satisfies the Pharisees and Herodians...but Jesus never gets tripped up.



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- God's part / Government's part / **My part**



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**You want help with how we should view
paying taxes?**



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Read Romans 13:1-7



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⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



1. Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?
2. **Whose husband, will the woman widowed by 7 brothers, be in heaven?**



Mark 12:18-27

¹⁸ And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. ²¹ And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. ²² And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the



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seven had her as wife.” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”



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The Trap:



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- Sadducees only used Pentateuch as authoritative.
- **Moses commanded a brother to marry his brother's childless widow.
(Deuteronomy 25:5-7)**



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If Jesus answer, *“I don’t know.”*

- He should not be viewed as an authority.
- He is wrong about there being a heaven.
 - **Moses wouldn’t have given a command that couldn’t be followed in heaven.**



Jesus rebukes and corrects them.



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Jesus rebuke:

- 1. You don't know Scripture.**



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Jesus rebuke:

1. You don't know Scripture.
2. **You don't know the power of God.**



Mark 12:18-24

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Jesus' correction:



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- 1. Heaven is not just an extension of this life.
There will not be marriage.**



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2. **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead,
but alive.**



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Life now





Life now

**Physical
Death**



Life now

**Intermediate
State**

Physical
Death



Life now

Intermediate
State

Physical
Death

**Jesus' 2nd
Coming**



Life now

Intermediate
State

**Resurrected
State**

Physical
Death

Jesus' 2nd
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Heaven:



Heaven:

- **Better than we can imagine.**



Heaven:

- Better than we can imagine.
- **Beyond what we can imagine.**



Heaven:

- Better than we can imagine.
- Beyond what we can imagine.
- **Being in the immediate presence of God.**



Takeaways:



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- **Let's be careful about having our view of heaven simply be an extrapolation of this life.**



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- **Let's contemplate the mystery of the reality of heaven.**



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- Let's be careful about having our view of heaven simply be an extrapolation of this life.
- Let's contemplate the mystery of the reality of heaven.
- **Let's pray that God would fill our hearts with joyous expectation of what is to come.**