



45 - Kingdom Loyalties- Mark 12:13-17 - Discussion Notes

Introduction

The religious leaders teamed up with their enemies, the loyalists of the Roman Empire in an attempt to trap Jesus. Through their questions they had hoped that Jesus would say something that would either cause him to lose the support of the common people or land him in trouble with the Roman officials. Jesus turned their questions around on them, by challenging where their true loyalties lay. As it came to light, each group was more loyal to their own kingdoms than the one God was delivering through Jesus.

Observation/Interpretation

- Who were the Pharisees?
- Who were the Herodians?
- Why would Jesus fall out of favor with the common people (and perhaps start a riot) if he answered, “yes, pay your taxes”?
- Why would Jesus be accused of sedition (starting a revolutionary revolt) if he answered, “no, don’t pay your taxes”?

Application

- Knowing that God’s image is stamped in us (12:17) how should this affect the way we view/live our lives?

Prayer

- Pray that we could live our lives as in **joying surrender** by giving ourselves to the true King of kings, and Lord of lords of whom we bare His image.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.