

# Resolved to Render Yourselves to God

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, February 2, 2020; Scott Terry

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**Sermon Theme: Having been created in God's image, we are to render ourselves completely to God. Having been born in sin, we must be recreated in the image of Christ, so that we may spend our lives for his glory.**

## **I. Tense Circumstances – Read Luke 20:19-20**

- A. Jesus tells a parable in vv. 9-18 based upon Isaiah 5. What is the meaning of the parable and how does it relate to Jesus' interaction with the religious leaders in vv. 19-26?
- B. The religious leaders "perceive" the parable appropriately, yet fail to respond (v. 19). Foolishness by definition is seeing the truth, yet refusing to submit to it. What are some of the ways in which the religious leaders have seen the truth that Jesus is the Messiah and yet refused to submit to it?
- C. The scribes and chief priests have a pretense of sincerity (v. 20, 45-47; see Matthew 6), yet refuse to submit to Him. Are there areas in your life in which you have only a pretense of sincerity? Would others consider you sincere (i.e. your spouse, children, roommate, colleagues)? How about God?

## **II. Tough Questions – Read Luke 20:21-25**

- A. The religious leaders are trying to "catch" Jesus on matters of the law. What's their purpose in this strategy? How are they ultimately successful (from their perspective) with this strategy?
- B. Though Jesus clearly knows the motives behind the religious leaders' questions, He answers them. What does this tell you about Jesus? How should you seek to respond to skeptics and critics?
- C. Jesus points out the significance of Caesar's likeness on the denarius. Why does Jesus respond this way with regard to the question of taxes? How does Jesus use this response to transcend to the greater issue of "rendering to God the things that are God's"?

## **III. Render Ourselves to God – Read Luke 21:1-4**

- A. What does it mean to bear God's image? How does knowledge of bearing God's image demand the devotion of your whole life to God? Practically, how can you render yourself to God? With your time? Resources and finances? Goals and dreams?
- B. We tend to like clear "theological lanes" for evangelism. How can you grow in intersecting the truths of the gospel with questions on topics like the law, government, culture (think through issues like homosexuality, abortion, citizenship, etc.)?
- C. Contrast the false pretenses of sincerity demonstrated by the religious leaders with the sincerity of the poor widow. In what ways can you grow in becoming more like the poor widow?