

The Story of Jesus: Civil Duties
(Lesson 54)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18 we are taught to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. The Scriptures are the source for accomplishing this growth (John 5:39).
3. This lesson is a study of the Lord's teaching in Luke 20:19-26 concerning "civil duties."
 - a. On this occasion Jesus faced a difficult situation -- He was being tempted.
 - b. Jesus took advantage of it to teach His followers a valuable lesson -- we are to fulfill our responsibilities to the government as well as those that relate to God.
4. Let us begin by examining . . .

Discussion:

- I. WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS OCCASION (Luke 20:19-26)
 - A. The chief priests and scribes were involved in a plot against Jesus.
 1. (19:47-48) They were already upset with Jesus.
 2. (20:1-8) They questioned Jesus about His authority, but He answered them wisely.
 3. (20:19) After Jesus told a parable the priests and scribes wanted "*to lay hands on Him.*"
 4. (20:20a) These men sent spies to try to find something that could be used against Jesus.
 5. (20:20b) They wanted to deliver Jesus to the governor.
 - B. (vs.21-22) A question was presented to Jesus.
 1. Notice how flattery was used (vs.21).
 2. The question (vs.22) had to do with paying tribute to Caesar.
 3. (Matthew 22:16) The people who asked this question were:
 - a. the disciples of the Pharisees (representing the religious law)
 - b. the Herodians (representing the civil law).
 4. It seems that the priests and scribes thought they would have something they could use against Jesus, regardless of how He answered.
 - C. (vs.23-25) Jesus answered this question.
 1. Jesus knew what these people were up to -- "*He perceived their craftiness.*"
 2. He first asked why they were tempting Him.
 3. He used a piece of money to show that responsibilities relating to the government are to be fulfilled as well as responsibilities relating to God.
 - D. (vs.26) The Lord answered this question in such a way that nothing could be used against Him.
- II. OUR CIVIL DUTIES ARE ALSO ADDRESSED IN OTHER PASSAGES
 - A. See:
 1. Romans 13:1-7 (Acts 5:29)
 2. 1 Timothy 2:1-4
 3. Titus 3:1
 4. 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - B. These passages teach us to:
 1. obey the laws of the land
 2. pay taxes
 3. pray for our leaders.
- III. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO GOD ARE ADDRESSED IN MATTHEW 22:37-39
 - A. One responsibility is to love God.
 1. Loving God includes keeping His commands (1 John 5:3; 1 John 2:3-5).
 2. To obey God's commands we must be familiar with them, so we must study His Word carefully (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - B. The other responsibility is to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 1. We learn what this involves in Matthew 7:12.
 2. Jesus illustrated this in His parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10).