Sunday, October 18, 2026

The Pursuit of Generosity

"Don't Fall into the Trap of this World"

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Three enemies of Jesus:

•Pharisee: Often called "the separated ones" which could also be referred to as the religious ones who believed in the resurrection of the dead.

•Sadducees: A political/religious group that was wealthy, controlled the temple in Jerusalem, and held most of the seats on the Jewish council. They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

•Herodians: Strictly political and supported the dynasty of Herod. Some Sadducees were probably Herodians.

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" Matthew 22:15-17

1.God can't be <u>trapped</u>, not even when it comes to your <u>finances</u>.

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." Acts 5:1-4

2.Man can easily be <u>trapped</u>, especially when it comes to <u>finances</u>.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:6-10

•We shouldn't forget Judas.

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away. Matthew 22:18-22

3.We earn our righteousness in the <u>civil realm</u>.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Romans 13:6-7

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 1 Peter 2:13-14

4.<u>Civil</u> righteousness does not trump <u>Spiritual</u> righteousness.

•Daniel 3 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refusing to worship idols.

•Daniel 6 - Daniel refusing to resist praying.

5.Spiritual <u>righteousness</u> comes through <u>surrender.</u>