

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2026! Leading to Worship Sunday October 18, 2026

Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! This week, we think about the difference between owing taxes and what God asks of us – to love one another, with all our heart and soul and mind! Click here: [Week 42 Video](#) Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- In this passage of Matthew 22, The Pharisees are trying to “trap” Jesus – trying to get him to say that it is unlawful to pay taxes to the Roman occupying authorities. It's not that the Pharisees want to pay taxes – they just want to get Jesus in trouble with the Romans.
- The Pharisees start with some disingenuous flattery – essentially, we know, Jesus, that you teach the truth, and you do not care what other people think. But then they ask, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” (Matthew 22:17)
- Jesus asks to see the coin, and then says, “‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’” (Matthew 22:20-21)

Two Questions

- What is the reason for the Pharisees' false flattery here? Doesn't their false flattery suggest the Pharisees already know that in “truth,” Jesus is going to put God before the Roman occupiers, and maybe even denounce the payment of taxes?
- What do you think Jesus' answer means? What things are God's things, compared to what things are Caesar's? What does God ask us to give? Is it merely a fraction of our income? Is it even mostly about money?

Action Step

- Sure – pay your taxes. Your income taxes, sales taxes, etc. But for each time you owe a tax this week, do something for God too! Find ways to give your heart and mind and soul to God!

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!