

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#79 – “Christianity and the State” – Luke 20:19-26

I. Introduction

A. State and religion

1. A difficult relationship
2. Historical development
 - a. Roman empire
 1. Christianity opposed
 2. Christianity the oppressor

B. Reformation developments

1. Magisterial reformers
2. Anabaptists
3. United States development
 - a. Establishment of religion – no.
 - b. Influenced by religion – yes.

C. Today’s Text: Luke 20:19-26

II. Exposition

A. Luke 20:20

1. Growing animosity by the religious leaders
 - a. Luke 19:48 – People devoted to Jesus’ words.
 - b. Luke 20:1-8 – Trapping question
 - c. Luke 20:9-18 – Parable about murder of the son
2. Now a spy is sent to infiltrate.

B. Luke 20:21-22

1. Pharisees and Herodians involved – Matt. 22:16.
2. Addressed as “teacher” – respected title for political reasons.
3. Not asking about Roman law but God’s law
 - a. The question is meant to place Jesus on the horns of a dilemma.
4. Taxes were a point of high opinion.

C. Luke 20:23

1. “Trickery” – used of Satan’s plots.
 - a. II Corinthians 11:3

D. Luke 20:24

1. Denarius – a day’s wage for a soldier.
 - a. The coin was viewed as a breaking of the second commandment.
2. “Whose head” or “image”
3. Inscription – Tiberius as divine

E. Luke 20:25-26

1. Silenced again by one sentence

III. Points for Reflection

A. The statement “render to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar” has become proverbial.

1. Rom. 13:1; Gen. 9:5-7; Rom. 13:2-4

B. It is the duty of all Christians to pay taxes when and where levied.

1. Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29

C. Remember who you belong to.

1. Lk 20:24-25; Gen. 1:27; Ex. 3:14; Eccl. 3:11; Col. 3:10-11