

OUR DUTY TO GOD AND GOVERNMENT
(Matthew 22:15-22)

- I. The Pharisees' PLOT (Matt. 22:15-17)
 - A. They devised a TRAP
 - 1. Concocted in SECRET
 - 2. Presented by SURROGATES
 - B. They began with FLATTERY
 - 1. Addressed Jesus as "TEACHER"
 - 2. Praised His COMMITMENT to TRUTH
 - 3. Mentioned His FEARLESS IMPARTIALITY
 - 4. Implied DESIRE for His INSTRUCTION
 - C. They raised a CONTROVERSIAL issue
 - 1. Regarded the despised POLL-TAX
 - a. An ANNUAL *per capita* tax
 - b. A symbol of ROMAN OWNERSHIP
 - 2. Asked whether or not PAYING it met GOD'S approval
- II. The Lord's PERCEPTION (Matt. 22:18)
 - A. He REVEALED their MALICIOUS intent

- B. He REBUKED their HYPOCRISY
- III. The Schemers' PARTICIPATION (Matt. 22:19-21a)
- A. Jesus had THEM present a COIN for paying the TAX
 - B. He asked whose LIKENESS and INSCRIPTION it bore
 - C. They said, "CAESAR'S"
 - 1. One side engraved with Caesar's FACE
 - 2. Other side showed him on a THRONE in PRIESTLY robes, inscribed "*pontifex maximus*" (HIGH PRIEST)
- IV. The Lord's PROCLAMATION (Matt. 22:21b-22)
- A. They expected Him to DENOUNCE the TAX as blasphemous
 - 1. Would be thought a DELIVERER by the CROWDS
 - 2. Would be charged with TREASON by the HERODIANS
 - B. They wouldn't mind if He SUPPORTED the tax
 - 1. Would be thought a FRAUD by the CROWDS
 - 2. Would be charged with BLASPHEMY by Jewish LEADERSHIP
 - C. Jesus did NEITHER
 - 1. COMMANDED rendering to Caesar things under his AUTHORITY (cf. Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)
 - 2. COMMANDED obeying ALL their obligations to GOD (cf. Acts 4:19; 5:29; much of Rev.)
 - D. His opponents were AMAZED and WITHDREW