

**The Ultimate
Political Revolution,
Mark 12.13-17**
Hennie Swart

Revolution





Introduction

We live in a time and place that has revolution in the air – the National Democratic Revolution of the ANC, the Economic Revolution of the EFF, the #FeesMustFall revolution of the students, but what does Jesus have to say about all this?

If I must live EVERYWHERE as though God SENT me there, how should I deal with the current political reality in SA?

Mark 12.13-17

¹³And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk.

¹⁴And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"

Mark 12.13-17

¹⁵But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." ¹⁶And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's."

¹⁷Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marvelled at him.

Jesus started the revolution

Note similarities to us: opposition politics and sent agents. Jesus' opponents set Him up by flattering Him as a revolutionary, but ironically:

1. Their flattery of Him is actually true about Him
2. Someone of whom it's true won't fall for it.

Jesus the Galilean vs Judas the Galilean:

- When this head-tax (1 den) was instituted in 6 BC, Judas the Galilean started a revolt: Zealots.
- Abolished head-tax, cleansed temple, declared the rule of God.

They questioned His revolution

Jesus had already done Kingdom (not Kingdom in me...) and temple, would He now also do taxes?

This is a trick question designed to trap Jesus:

- If He says, 'No, don't pay the tax,' Caesar will kill Him.
- If He says, 'Yes, pay it,' the people will no longer believe His Kingdom of God message.
- They place Him between a rock and a hard place.

They questioned His revolution

Jesus avoids:

Political simplicity: He refuses to give a simple Yes or No answer, even when they ask for one.

Political complacency: unlike a politician, He doesn't avoid the tough question – answer amazes (vs frustrates) them.

Political primacy: Jesus changes the verb to 'give back';

- 'image': The denarius carries Caesar's image (eikōn) and belongs to him; we carry God's and belong to Him!
- "This is the first ever example of limited government." Keller
- Note the irony that they have to hand Jesus a denarius (hypocrisy): Brits – Afr – ANC – EFF: all worldly revolutions disappoint.

Jesus revolutionized revolution

- 'inscription': "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus, Pontifex Maximus"

Both Jesus and Tiberius are king, son of God, and high priest, but note the **ironic** contrast:



- One owns all the coins the other owns none.
- One takes all the power, the other gives it up.
- One kills for his kingdom, the other dies for His.
- E.g. MLK

Jesus revolutionized revolution

"We really serve a great and almighty God and I simply have to share my experience of 2 nights ago with you! As you are aware, it is an unstable time at Stellenbosch University. Thursday evening I studied until about 00:30 and when I entered my room, it smelled like petrol. I went to sniff at other windows and concluded that I am just being paranoid so I went to bed. A half-hour later I was teary and my heart was uneasy and I believe that is how the Holy Spirit spoke to me. I phoned Campus Security and asked them to come and check that everything is in order. Ten minutes later there were several police vehicles, investigators - and an hour later they found 6 bottles petrol, matches and paper underneath a car at my res. It is impossible that I could have smelled this Petrol all the way to my room window. God's love covers us and He protects His children. It just shows the power of prayer and that our God lives! This whole week everyone has been praying and our campus is so calm . We must keep on praying and put our trust in God. He is so Good for us! 🌸". From a girl in Shofar

conclusion

Jesus revolutionizes revolution!
 You're not a true revolutionary until you join the Jesus-revolution: the peaceful revolution that revolutionizes all revolutions and actually changes the world!
