

# PRAYER UPDATE

## PRAISE

**The World's Biggest Garage Sale** - raised over \$60,000 for Second Harvest Food Bank which is equivalent to nearly a quarter of a million meals!

## PHYSICAL ILLNESSES & SURGERIES this past week

**Jared Hinds** - has just completed 3 weeks of bone marrow transplant at Stanford. Please continue to lift him up in your prayers as this process is very intense and he continues isolated treatment for several months. Please also pray for God's strength and peace for his wife Nadia.

**Hayden Jilka (8 yrs old)** - blood counts are off therefore his chemo treatments will be postponed for a couple of weeks. Please pray that his count will stabilize quickly so the process towards healing can resume.

**Bola Taylor, missionary in Japan** - is home again until her 3rd round on May 18th, and then surgery is scheduled for July 7th. Please pray for relief from nausea, increased stamina and weight gain as Bola continues to move forward.

**We would love to visit your loved ones in the hospital. Contact Carrie Clark 465.3368 | care@tlc.org**

**A complete prayer list is available at the Info Desk.**

# DEBATING JESUS

## ABOUT POLITICS

MAY 16 & 17

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

*Mark 12:13-17*

## THREE WAYS THIS IS REVOLUTIONARY:

Thanks to Timothy Keller, whose sermon “Arguing about Politics” and book *King’s Cross* were primary resources for this message

### 1. A REVOLUTIONARY \_\_\_\_\_

“Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?” *Mark 13:14,15*

### 2. A REVOLUTIONARY \_\_\_\_\_

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”  
*Mark 13:17*

JESUS REFUSES THREE THINGS:

- POLITICAL \_\_\_\_\_
- POLITICAL \_\_\_\_\_
- POLITICAL \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. A REVOLUTIONARY \_\_\_\_\_

“Bring me a denarius...” *Mark 12:14*

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you... *Luke 6:20-22*

**This week’s memory verse:** “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” *Mark 13:17*

## DAILY MEDITATIONS

### MONDAY

Read Mark 12:13-17. Look back over your message notes. What point or question leapt out at you from this weekend’s message? How would you summarize Christ’s point in verse 17? What do you think it means to “give God what is God’s”? *Commit to God today in prayer all that He has given you to.*

### TUESDAY

To get context for last weekend’s message, read Mark 11:1-19. From Mark 11 until the end of this gospel, we’re in the last week of Jesus’ life. This section contains the confusing episode of the withered fig tree. I think this was an object lesson from Jesus about looking nice but forgetting your purpose: The tree was leafy but bore no fruit. All sizzle; no steak. He goes on to have the same criticism of the temple in Jerusalem. The beautiful new buildings looked impressive, but the leadership was not actually bringing people to God. How can today’s churches and Christians be like the temple or the fig tree? *Ask God to help us not be “all sizzle, no steak”. Ask Him for substance in your own walk and in our church.*

### WEDNESDAY

Read Mark 11:1-19 again. This sets up the debates with Jesus that happen over the next couple days in Mark 11 and 12. Why would Jesus’ actions in these verses be threatening or confusing to the leadership in Jerusalem? Do you think Jesus wanted to provoke them? Why or why not? If Jesus were to “overturn tables” in your house or in your soul, what would he get rid of? *Do a “fearless moral inventory” and ask God to show you what needs to go in your life.*

### THURSDAY

Read Mark 11:27-33. Basically the leaders were asking Jesus, “Who made you boss?” Note their response to him. Were they concerned about determining the truth, or were they concerned about the political ramifications of their opinion of Jesus? How do we sometimes have this same discussion with ourselves? *Ask God to help you not worry about what “the people” will say about your belief in Jesus.*

### FRIDAY

To prepare for the weekend message, read Mark 12:18-27. In verse 24, in what two ways does Jesus say his questioners are in error? How is it possible that these people, who knew Scripture in such minute detail, could be accused by Jesus of “not knowing Scripture”? How is it possible for very religious people to “not know the power of God”? *Ask God to help you see the point, the big picture, of Scripture and to trust in the power of God.*

### SATURDAY

Please pray for this weekend’s services. In what ways can you “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s” this weekend?