

Jesus Speaks of Taxes & Offerings

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44



Mark 12:43-44 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."



The Story

Jesus had many enemies who hated Him. They hated Him so much they wanted to kill Him. These enemies were looking for a reason to kill Jesus. They tried to find a hard question for Jesus so that they could get Him in trouble.

First they said nice things to Jesus to try to trick Him. They said, "Teacher, we know that you always tell the truth and teach God's Word rightly." Jesus knew that they didn't really mean these nice things that they said.

Then they asked, "Should we pay taxes to our rulers or not?" They were trying to get Jesus in trouble. Most Jews hated their ruler and did not want to pay taxes to him. If Jesus said, "Yes, you should pay taxes," then the Jewish people would not like Jesus. If Jesus said, "No, don't pay taxes to the ruler," then the ruler would be angry at Jesus and might put Him in jail.

Jesus could look into His enemies' hearts. He saw how much they hated Him and were trying to trick Him so they could kill Him. Jesus knew this was a sin. He tried to warn them to be sorry about their bad sin. He said, "Why are you trying to trick me? Bring me a coin. I want to see it."

They brought Jesus the coin. Jesus asked them, "Whose picture is on this coin?"

The enemies said, "Our Ruler's." Jesus answered, "Give to your ruler what belongs to the ruler, and give to God what is due to God."

The enemies were amazed at how wisely Jesus spoke. They were not able to trick Him or get Him into trouble.

Later, Jesus was sitting in the temple watching people put their money in the offering boxes. Because He is God, Jesus could look into each person's heart and mind as they were giving their offerings.

Many rich people gave large amounts of money. But a poor widow came who put two small coins in that were worth even less than a penny.

Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the other people. All the other people gave some of the money they had left over after they bought for themselves what they wanted. But she put in all her money, even though she needed it for herself to live on."

Jesus was pleased with the widow's offering because she gave it with love and thankfulness.

Activity One - Fill in the blanks with the correct name from the WORD BOX. You will use the names more than once.

enemies

Jesus

rulers

God

rich people

widow

1. Jesus' _____ tried to trap Jesus with a hard question.
2. _____ loved His enemies.
3. _____ warned His enemies about the sin in their hearts.
4. Jesus said we should pay taxes to our _____.
5. Jesus said we should give to _____ our offerings.
6. The _____ gave to God the money they had left over.
7. The _____ gave to God all the money she had.
8. The _____ showed she loved God very much.
9. _____ took care of the widow and gave her the things she needed.
10. The _____ showed she trusted God.
11. The _____ showed she feared (respected, obeyed) God.

Hymn - TLH #442 v. 1-2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Activity Two -

Fill in the blanks with the words **fear**, **love** or **trust**.

The First Commandment © Sydow Catechism 2000

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should **fear**, **love** and **trust** in God above all things.

1. We show we _____ God when we respect and obey Him.
2. We show we _____ God when we don't worry.
3. We show we _____ God when we sing praises to Him.
4. We show we _____ God when we pray in times of trouble.
5. We show we _____ God when we don't want to anger God by sinning.
6. We show we _____ God when we share God's Word with others.
7. We show we _____ God when we give Him our offerings.

Passages

Psalm 33:8 - Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. (*We should fear God.*)

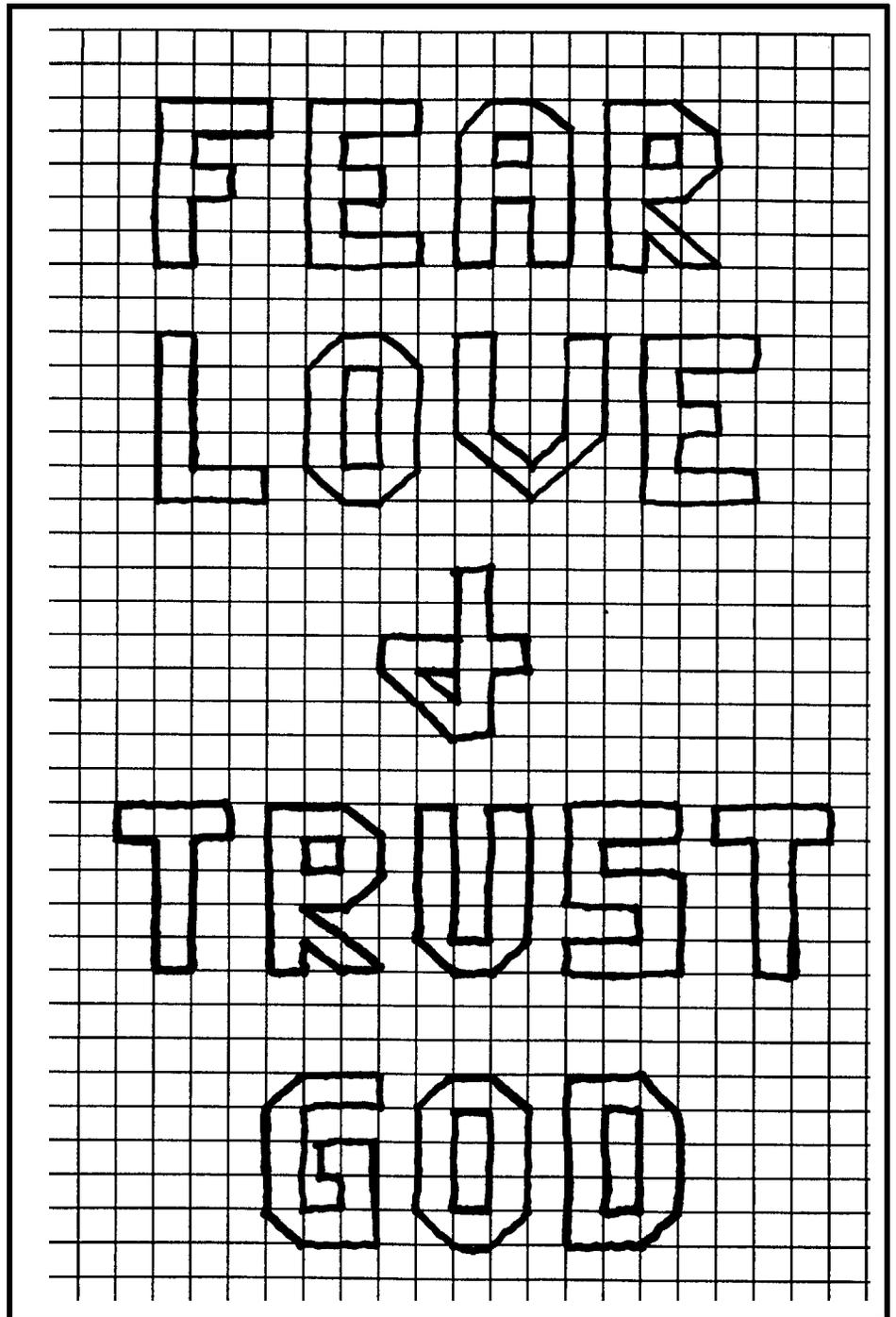
1 John 4:19 - We love Him because He first loved us. (*We should love God.*)

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (*This is the God we trust.*)

We show our love and thankfulness to God by giving Him offerings.



Activity Three - Color the squares inside the letters with warm colors (red, yellow, orange). Color the squares outside the letters with cool colors (blue, green, purple).



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We are sorry when we don't respect (fear) You enough to obey Your commandments. We're sorry when we love other things or people more than You. We're sorry when we don't trust You. Please forgive us for Jesus' sake.

Thank You for sending Jesus who perfectly feared, loved, and trusted You in our place. Help us to show our love and thankfulness to You in our offerings, prayers, and obedience to Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.