**Elder Berry Ross \_ \_ December 12, 2021**

**Jesus Sets The Record Straight**

**Mark 12:13-27**

**Key Truth:** Jesus has always used His powerful, life-giving words to confront the enemy.

1. Jesus cannot be ensnared by flattering hypocritical words.

 A. The words of Jesus are superior to the words of man. John 1:1-3

 B. Words must be measured by motives.

 C. Words should be preceded by our deeds.

2. The hypocritical arguments of the day.

 A. Supporting the government is a matter of perspective.

 B. Human life is lived out in a tangible place.

 C. Challenging God’s authority regarding governance.

3. There is misinformation out here today we need to correct.
 A. Many Christians still rely on man’s opinion over God’s revealed

 truth.

 B. Some people believe they can coerce God into agreeing with

 them.

4. Jesus has authority over hypocritical arguments.

 A. Jesus is the final word from God. **Hebrews 1:1-2**

 B. Jesus has Kingdom authority to overrule any illegitimate

 authority. **Colossians 1:15-16**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Have a conversation with God and ask Him to point out things in your life He doesn’t agree with. Acknowledge them and repent.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

When you hear the word “hypocrisy,” which of the following comes to mind first: Politicians, Parents, Professors, Christians, Myself?

Anytime a Christian chooses the world’s way over God’s way, they’re living a life of hypocrisy. What are some situations where a Christ follower might be forced to choose between doing what God says over and above what another authority figure is demanding of them?

Read Mark 12:13-17: What good things do the Pharisees and Herodians say about Jesus before asking him a question? Do you think they believe what they are saying about Jesus? Why or why not?

What is the question they ask Jesus to answer? How is their hypocrisy revealed in the question they ask of Him?

What commitments must each of us make if we’re going to know God’s Word well enough to realize when we’re being hypocrites?

As Christians we hold dual citizenship – we’re citizens of a specific country and citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20). We are called to live out our earthly citizenship in a way that reflects our heavenly citizenship. What insights do you see in Romans 13:1-7 about how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the United States, no matter which political party is in the majority?

How could you reconcile Paul’s teaching here about our citizenship responsibilities with the response of the Apostles to governmental authority in Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:25- 29?