

2nd Temptation of the Religious Leaders Luke 20:20-26

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. (Luke 2:1-2 ESV) In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar (14-37 AD), Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. (Luke 3:1-2 ESV)

So they

- watched him and
- sent spies,
- who pretended to be sincere,
- that they might catch him in something he said,
- so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, (Matthew 22:15-16a ESV)

So they asked him,

- “Teacher,
- we know that you speak and teach rightly, and
- show no partiality,
- but truly teach the way of God.
- Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?” (Luke 20:20-22 ESV)

“Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (Matthew 22:16b-17 ESV)

But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them,

- “Show me a denarius.
- Whose likeness and inscription does it have?”

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” (Matthew 22:18-20 ESV)

They said,

- “Caesar's.”
- They said, “Caesar's.” (Matthew 22:21a ESV)

He said to them,

- “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” (Luke 20:23-25 ESV)

Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” (Matthew 22:21b ESV)

And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent. (Luke 20:26 ESV)

When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away. (Matthew 22:22 ESV)

No King but Caesar:

From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

“If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

“Behold your King!”

They cried out,

“Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

Pilate said to them,

“Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered,

“We have no king but Caesar.”

So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. (John 19:12-16 ESV)

Jews and Caesar:

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying,

“This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting,

“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”

And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. (Acts 17:1-9 ESV)

Paul appeals to Caesar:

After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. Paul argued in his defense,

“Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.”

But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul,

“Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”

But Paul said,

“I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered,

“To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.” (Acts 25:6-12 ESV)

Angel's Promise to Paul to Stand before Caesar:

Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said,

“Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said,

‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on some island.” (Acts 27:21-26 ESV)