

Mark 12 : 13-27—Memory Verse, 27.

Golden Text—Render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's.—Mark 12 : 17.

13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

14 And when they were come, they said unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man : for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth : Is it lawful to give tribute to Cæsar, or not ?

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give ? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me ? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription ? And they said unto him, Cæsar's.

17 And Je'sus answering said unto them, Render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection ; and they asked him, saying,

19 Master, Mo'ses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

20 Now there were seven brethren : and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.

21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed : and the third likewise.

22 And the seven had her, and left no seed : last of all the woman died also.

23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them ? for the seven had her to wife.

24 And Je'sus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God ?

25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage ; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

26 And as touching the dead, that they rise : have ye not read in the book of Mo'ses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob ?

27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living : ye therefore do greatly err.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The scribes and Pharisees had again and again asked Jesus confusing questions, in the hope that in answering them He would speak against some of their laws and they would then be able to have Him punished. But Jesus' replies had always been so wisely given, that their plots against him had never succeeded.

At last these men who hated Jesus planned another difficult question, which they hoped at last would confuse Him. They sent to Him a number of Pharisees and Herodians, who came very humbly, as if they were really anxious to learn what was right. "Master," they said, "we know that Thou teachest God's truth, and what Thou knowest to be right, without fear of men's opinions ; so we know Thou wilt not fear to tell us whether we ought to pay tribute to Cæsar or not."

These wicked men thought that, whichever way Jesus answered this question, He would

be in their power. If He advised them to pay tribute, the Pharisees, who considered that God was their only King, and that in paying taxes to Cæsar, the Roman Emperor who had conquered their country, they were being disloyal to God, would at last be able to accuse Him to the Jews of holding an opinion contrary to their sacred laws. On the other hand, if Jesus advised them not to pay taxes to Cæsar, the Herodians, who were friendly to Cæsar, would accuse Him of being an enemy of the emperor, and so have Him put to death.

But Jesus saw through their evil design, and said, "Bring me a Roman penny." And when they did so, He held it up, asking, "Whose image and titles are on this ?" and they answered, "Cæsar's."

"Then," said Jesus, "give to Cæsar the things that rightfully belong to him, and to God whatever belongs to Him, as His due."