

Gospel of Matthew “A Political Question”
Matthew 22:15-22
February 25, 2024

Matthew 22:15-34

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “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. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

The trap.

The coin was offensive.

“Pay back the gentiles what they deserve.”

Render.

Jesus distinguished between Caesar and God, affirms the state and placed the state underneath someone greater.

What is God's?

Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Being a Christian changes your politics because the Christian thinks of God first.

Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- What political conversations are you having? What are the issues around you that are concerning?
- What is the issue that the Pharisees and Herodians want Jesus to enter into? What are their real intentions? Are there times when political arguments attempt to conceal the real issues?
- How does Jesus' response move the topic to the real issue? What is the real issue?
- Discuss the idea that we often want God to deal with our issues, while God wants to use the issues to deal with our heart. How has this been true for you?
- In what ways might our politics adjust because of our allegiance to Christ?

- If you were to “give God what is God’s” this week, what would that look like for you?
- How can your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?