

# 5-Day Devotional: Render to God What Is God's

## Day 1: The Image Bearer

**Reading:** Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 13:1-7

**Devotional:** Just as Caesar's coin bore his image, you bear the image of God Himself. This isn't merely poetic language—it's your identity. Every breath you take, every talent you possess, every moment of your existence belongs to the One who stamped His likeness upon you. Today, consider what it means that you're not your own. The government may claim your taxes, your employer may claim your time, but your soul—your worship, your ultimate allegiance—belongs to God alone. This truth should both humble and embolden you. You are royalty in God's kingdom, purchased at the highest price. How does knowing you bear God's image change how you see yourself and others today?

## Day 2: Two Masters, One Choice

**Reading:** Matthew 6:19-24; Mark 12:13-17

**Devotional:** Jesus masterfully navigated a political trap by pointing to a higher kingdom. The Pharisees and Herodians—polar opposites united only in their hatred of Christ—tried to force Him to choose between human systems. He chose neither. He chose God. We live in a world that constantly demands our ultimate allegiance—political parties, ideologies, careers, wealth. But Jesus calls us to hold earthly things loosely while gripping heaven tightly. Give Caesar his coins, yes, but give God your heart. The things of this world will pass away; kings and kingdoms rise and fall. Only one Kingdom remains eternal. Where is your treasure today? Your answer reveals your true master.

## Day 3: Citizens of Heaven

**Reading:** Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:9-17

**Devotional:** You are an exile, a sojourner, a citizen of another country. This truth transforms how you engage with earthly governments. The early Christians were the best citizens Rome had—honest, hardworking, faithful taxpayers—yet they refused to bow to Caesar. They understood something profound: being subject to earthly authority is part of our witness, but worship belongs to God alone. Your conduct in this world—how you speak of leaders, pay taxes, obey laws—reflects whose kingdom you truly serve. But when government demands what belongs to God, you must stand firm. You've been adopted into royalty, sealed with the Holy Spirit. No earthly power owns you. How does your heavenly citizenship influence

your earthly conduct?

## **Day 4: The Politics of the Kingdom**

**Reading:** Joshua 5:13-15; Revelation 7:9-17

**Devotional:** When Joshua asked the angel, "Are you for us or our enemies?" the answer was striking: "Neither." Jesus isn't on the Republican side or the Democratic side—He's on His own side. The 144,000 in Revelation weren't marked with political party affiliations but with the name of the Lamb and His Father. This should radically reshape our engagement with politics. Vote according to conscience and conviction, yes, but never confuse your political preferences with the Kingdom of God. Jesus mystified His questioners because they couldn't categorize Him. May we be equally mystifying—people whose ultimate allegiance is so clearly fixed on Christ that the world can't box us in. Your politics should reflect your theology, not the other way around.

## **Day 5: Living as Light**

**Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 5:13-16

**Devotional:** Pray for your leaders—even those you didn't vote for, even those whose policies you oppose. This countercultural command isn't about political agreement; it's about spiritual witness. The early church transformed Rome not through revolution but through radical obedience, honesty, and love. They paid unjust taxes, honored corrupt leaders, and lived such exemplary lives that even their persecutors marveled. Your witness isn't primarily in your voting record but in how you love your neighbor, speak truth, conduct business, and honor those in authority. As government expands and cultural pressures increase, the temptation is to fight fire with fire. But Jesus calls us to be light in darkness, salt in decay. How will you silence your accusers today—not through arguments, but through godly living?

*Reflection Question for the Week: In what areas of your life have you given Caesar what belongs to God? How can you reclaim your ultimate allegiance to Christ while still being a faithful citizen of your earthly nation?*