

Sermon Guide



“Render to Caesar” **January 29, 2023**

”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.’ ”

Matthew 22:15

- 1. Greg spoke about the Pharisees’ strategy to use religion to attain power. When we use religion as an expedient way to get power or privilege, we become hypocritical. Not only that, but we also fail to live our calling as Kingdom citizens.** Are there areas we, as the church, have become hypocritical? Try to pick an area you personally need to grow. (Before answering this question, take a moment to quiet yourselves before the Lord. We cannot experience the conviction of the Spirit if we feel defensive or attempt to justify ourselves.)
- 2. Greg challenged us to be full of the fruit of the Spirit when we engage controversial topics. Spend a moment thinking of a topic or issue that provokes strong emotions in you. Then, read Galatians 5:22-23 out loud.** What fruit of the Spirit do you lack when you engage the topic that you recalled? Share with the group.
- 3. Jesus’ response to the Pharisees thwarts their intentions. Through His ministry, Jesus communicates two realities about engaging the world: we, as kingdom citizens, should be involved in our world and community. Yet, the crucifixion of Christ shows that God works in ways we could never imagine, even when circumstances feel out of control.** Think of a recent event in our world that feels hopeless or without purpose. How might you press into greater trust?

Prayer Prompt (if time allows): Pray for the fruit of the Spirit as you engage in difficult circumstances and controversial topics.

Take Your Next Step of Faith. What is one step of faith you can take this week?