

How Should We Respond to Government

5 Day Devotional

Day 1

Reading: Matthew 22:15–22

Devotional

Jesus does not deny that earthly responsibilities matter. Taxes, laws, citizenship, and civic duties have their place. But His answer also draws a clear line: Caesar may have a coin, but God has your life.

The image of Caesar was stamped on the coin, but the image of God is stamped on humanity. That means your ultimate loyalty cannot belong to a nation, party, leader, or earthly system. Those things are temporary. God's kingdom is eternal.

A Christian can participate faithfully in earthly responsibilities while remembering that this world is not home. You can vote, serve, speak truth, obey laws where they do not violate God's Word, and seek the good of your community. But none of those things should become your identity. Your first allegiance is to King Jesus. Earthly citizenship may shape some of your responsibilities, but heavenly citizenship shapes your values, your hope, your decisions, and your worship.

Application

Reflection: What kind of earthly concerns most often pull your attention away from eternal things?

Action: Before making an important decision today, pause and ask, "Does this honor my King?"

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me live responsibly in this world without forgetting that I belong first to You. Keep my heart loyal to Your kingdom above all else. Amen.

Day 2

Reading: 1 Peter 5:8–11

Devotional

Peter reminds believers that life is not merely political, social, or cultural. There is a spiritual enemy at work. Satan seeks to deceive, divide, discourage, and devour. That is why Christians must be alert and sober-minded.

Being sober-minded means refusing to be controlled by panic, anger, fear, or confusion. It means thinking clearly through the lens of God's Word. The world often pressures believers to react quickly, choose sides carelessly, or forget eternity. But Peter says to stand firm.

Standing firm does not mean being harsh or hateful. It means being anchored. Your strength is not in winning every argument or controlling every outcome. Your strength is in the God of all grace, who will restore, strengthen, and establish His people.

The Christian life requires awareness, but not anxiety. The enemy is real, but he is not greater than Christ. The suffering of this world is real, but it is not forever. Your calling is eternal glory in Christ.

Application

Reflection: How many times do you let fear or frustration shape your response before you remember God's promises?

Action: Choose one situation today where you need to respond with faith instead of fear.

Prayer: God of all grace, help me stay alert without becoming anxious. Strengthen me to stand firm in faith and keep my eyes on eternal glory. Amen.

Day 3

Reading: Ephesians 6:10–12

Devotional

Paul reminds believers that the deepest battle is not against people. It may look like the battle is against leaders, neighbors, coworkers, family members, or people with different beliefs. But Scripture says the real conflict is spiritual. If you forget the real battle, you may begin treating people like enemies instead of souls who need Jesus. The enemy wants believers to become bitter, distracted, and consumed with earthly conflict. But citizens of heaven must see beyond what is visible.

Spiritual warfare is not fought with hatred, pride, or revenge. It is fought with truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer. These are kingdom weapons. They remind you that your goal is not simply to win arguments, but to reflect Christ and point others to Him. Keeping your eyes heavenward helps you remember that people are not the ultimate enemy. Sin deceives. Satan destroys. But Jesus saves.

Application

Reflection: What kind of people are you most tempted to view as enemies instead of people who need grace?

Action: Pray today for one person you strongly disagree with.

Prayer: Lord, help me remember that my battle is not against flesh and blood. Teach me to stand for truth while loving people as souls made in Your image. Amen.

Day 4

Reading: Revelation 2:12–13

Devotional

The church in Pergamum lived in a spiritually dark place. Jesus knew exactly where they were. He knew the pressure they faced, the evil around them, and the cost of remaining faithful. Jesus is not unaware of the world you live in. He sees the confusion, temptation, hostility, and compromise around you. He knows when faithfulness feels difficult. He knows when standing for Him costs something.

Jesus commends His people for holding fast to His name. That is the call of heavenly citizenship: remain faithful where God has placed you. You may not be able to control the culture, the government, or the direction of the world, but you can remain true to Jesus. The goal is not escape from every hard place. The goal is faithfulness in the middle of it. Until Christ returns, His people are called to live as lights in dark places, holding firmly to His name.

Application

Reflection: Where do you feel the most pressure to hide, soften, or compromise your faith?

Action: Find one simple way today to be openly faithful to Jesus in your words or actions.

Prayer: Jesus, You know where I live and what pressures surround me. Help me hold firmly to Your name and remain faithful until You return. Amen.

Day 5

Reading: Romans 10:9–13; Philippians 2:9–11

Devotional

No earthly government can provide the deepest good news. Laws may change. Leaders may rise and fall. Nations may grow strong or weak. But none of them can forgive sin, raise the dead, or give eternal life.

The gospel is the greater news: Jesus died for sinners, rose from the dead, and saves all who call on Him in faith. This is the message citizens of heaven carry into the world. Before Christians are political voices, cultural voices, or national voices, they are gospel witnesses.

One day every earthly power will bow before Jesus. Every ruler, every nation, every system, and every person will acknowledge Him as Lord. That truth should give believers both courage and humility. Courage, because Jesus wins. Humility, because salvation is by grace, not human strength.

Your earthly responsibilities matter, but they are temporary. Your witness for Christ carries eternal weight. Live with your eyes on the day when King Jesus is fully revealed.

Application

Reflection: How often do you think about eternity when deciding how to speak, serve, vote, work, or respond to others?

Action: Share one word of gospel hope with someone this week—through a conversation, message, prayer, or act of love.

Prayer: King Jesus, thank You for saving all who call on Your name. Keep my eyes fixed on eternity and help my life point others to Your kingdom. Amen.