

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 10-7-26
Matthew Chapter 22 Part 3
Render therefore to...

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We are continuing to study a series of questions that were asked of Jesus.
- 2) Last week we addressed the question they asked, should we pay our taxes?
- 3) Verse 15 – Their plan includes a specific goal: to “entangle” Jesus.
- 4) Verse 16 – Enemies came together in an attempt to get rid of Jesus.
- 5) Verse 17 – Should we pay our taxes?
- 6) Verse 18 – Jesus exposed their hearts and motives.
- 7) Verse 19-20 – Jesus asked them a question about the coin.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) This question has brought us to an important and often controversial subject.
 - a) So controversial at times that even believers cannot talk about it.
- 2) Government isn't the only biblical subject about which believers have a hard time talking about.
 - a) Some of the other subjects would include –

2. Our dual citizenship has responsibilities.

a. The root of this view is found in Jesus' answer.

- 1) Jesus' answer to their questions reveals this duality.
 - a) “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.”
- 2) Peter speaking to believers in I Peter 2:11, referred to us as “strangers” and “pilgrims.”

b. We are citizens of heaven.

- 1) Philippians 3:20 –
 - a) “conversation” – speaks of citizenship, the commonwealth whose citizens we are.

c. How are we to live in this duality?

- 1) What is your first allegiance?
- 2) How are we supposed to live?
 - a) Understand what Jesus meant by His statement, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.”

d. A suggestion to consider:

- 1) Steward our time and our faith.
 - a) We are ambassadors for Jesus in this world.
- 2) This plays out in our lives each day.
- 3) Consider the wisdom found in Colossians 4:5-6 concerning this.
 - a) “wisdom” – devout and proper prudence in contact with those who are not disciples of Christ.
 - b) “redeeming the time” – making wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good.
 - c) “grace” – grace of speech or speaking with grace.
 - d) “seasoned” – full of wisdom and grace.

e. Back to the subject of government.

- 1) When it comes to government, believers have all kinds of opinions, ideas, and attitudes.
- 2) We started to answer the question last week: Did God establish government?

3. What has God said about government? Romans 13

a. Verse 1 –

- 1) “every soul be subject” – every person is to obey.
- 2) “higher powers” – authorities, a ruler, or a human magistrate
- 3) “For there is no power but of God” – no one is allowed to rule unless God permits it.
- 4) “the powers that be are ordained of God.”
- 5) Governing authorities are appointed by God and are part of His plan.
- 6) How can a wicked or unbelieving person rule?
 - a) What God may allow does not always mean He endorses it.
- 7) Elections are truly the fruit of choice, not necessarily a divine endorsement.
- 8) God will sometimes use a bad leader to test and humble the people.
 - a) Judges 3:4 –
- 9) An important takeaway comes out here.
 - a) Regardless of who is in office, our responsibility doesn’t really change.
 - b) We are to obey the government. – Romans 13:1
 - c) We are to pray for those in authority over us (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - d) We are to be ready to be salt and light in this world (Colossians 4:5-6).
 - e) Never lose sight of the fact that our citizenship is in heaven. Phil. 3:20
 - f) Understand that our future home with Jesus doesn’t rise or fall with any election.

b. Verse 2 –

- 1) “Whosoever” – everyone, anyone, whether believer or unbeliever.
- 2) “resisteth the power” – to range in battle against; to resist.
- 3) “resisteth the ordinance of God” – to range in battle against; to resist the arrangement of God.
- 4) “they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation” –
- 5) “damnation” – refers to a condemnatory sentence, penal judgment, or sentence.

c. The question then becomes one of resistance.

- 1) Can a believer stand up and refuse to give in to something the government is doing or requiring of them?
 - a) If you choose to do that, then I recommend the following principles.

d. Verse 3 –

- 1) God’s plan is that “rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.”
- 2) If you have laws, you are to follow those laws.
- 3) Believers are told to: “not be afraid of the power.”

e. Verse 4 –

- 1) We see God’s design and desire in this verse.
 - a) “minister” – this speaks of a servant.
- 2) Imagine if all leaders had to be taught a biblical perspective of why God established government and what God desired for their role in it.
- 3) Next is a warning to everyone.

- a) “But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain.”

4. Tonight’s Takeaway:

- a. I would encourage you to read this passage and allow the Lord to do the necessary work in your heart to help you each day.