

Faith in a Political World

Mark 12:13-17

Message Outline

Duty to government does not eliminate duty to God.

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God and government are not the same.

Resist political.....

- Simplicity
 - Idolatry
 - irritability
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Looking Back

One of the most difficult questions to answer right now is, "what does it look like to live out our Christian faith in the midst of this political world?" Thankfully, we're not the first Christians to ever grapple with that question. In fact, Jesus did during his earthly ministry and his profound response to a political question posed to trap him gives us incredible insight into how we can answer the question. But, as is the case with much of Jesus' teaching, the answer might push our buttons in some uncomfortable ways.

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

"For some Christians, lower taxes, a strong national defense, and lobbying to keep Christ in Christmas are more pressing issues than whether their neighbors and friends know God."
Unknown

"Could it be possible that some of us love the American way of life more than we truly love God and the Christian way of life?" Tom Oylar

"Just think if the apostolic church had pinned its hopes on the Roman Empire!" Malcom Muggeridge

Working it Out

1. What are some adjectives or ways you would describe our political landscape and discourse right now?
2. Read Mark 12:13-17. What do you notice? What jumps out to you?
3. After hearing more of the context in Matt's sermon, is there anything new that you learned about this "trap" set for Jesus?

4. Matt talked about three principles we see in Jesus' response. What were they?

Which response of these three do you think was most surprising to his audience that day?

Which principle of the three do you think is most neglected by Christians today?

5. How do we see Jesus in the passage resisting political simplicity? What does resisting political simplicity look like in our world today?
6. Matt gave four "clues" to spot political idolatry in our hearts. Which 1 or 2 of these four convicted or resonated most with you personally?

Politics may be an idol when we

- Demonize people who believe differently
- See every issue as a political issue
- Have disproportionate energy around it
- Believe someone can bring political "salvation"

7. Do you see Christians in our world today talking about politics in a way that is irritating or unloving to other people? How do you avoid that in your own life?

What would it look like for you to speak with kindness, gentleness, and patience in this area?

8. What is one thing from this sermon that you will take with you over the next month to think about or do differently, based on this teaching in God's Word?
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