**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr February 25, 2024**

**Jesus Silences His Critics Part 1**

Matthew 22:15-22

**Key Truth:** Since God is our Creator, He is worthy of our allegiance, worship, and obedience.

**Jesus Placed Between A Rock And A Hard Place?**

1. The enemies of Jesus were trying to get Him into a religious

 or a political debate.

2. They thought that any way Jesus answered would discredit

 His popularity.

3. Jesus knew their evil hearts, yet He answered their question

 perfectly.

**Jesus Answer Is Deeper Than We Think:**

1. Humanity is created in the image of God therefore, we are to

 give to God what belongs to Him. Genesis 1:26-27

2. Jesus placed devotion to God on a higher plane than devotion

 to Caesar without positioning Himself in opposition to either

 God or government.

**What We Learn:**

1. There are different spheres of influence in our lives, but none

 should usurp God’s authority and influence. Romans 13:1-7,

 Acts 4:17-22

2. Christians are to be good citizens wherever God has placed

 us. 1 Peter 2:13-17

3. To reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ is to refuse to give God

 the glory and honor He deserves.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the grace and mercy He has shown in sacrificing His Son so that you might be forgiven. Ask Him to help you grow in your love and devotion to Him.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have you ever felt that Jesus posed a threat to your personal power and status? How does the gospel change the way we think about ourselves in this regard?

Read Matthew 22:21: How did Jesus’ response expose the hearts of the Pharisees and the Herodians?

What are the implications of Jesus’ response for us?

One of the results of living in a country that enjoys as much freedom as we do is the right to have different opinions. We can be passionate about a sports team, health, finances, business and our political affiliations. We are free to express our opinions, but as followers of Jesus we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving. How could the following verses help shape how we communicate with those we disagree with?

James 1:26-27

James 3:9-12

Psalm 19:14

As Christians we hold dual citizenship – we’re citizens of a specific country and citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20). We are called to live out our earthly citizenship in a way that reflects our heavenly citizenship. What insights do you see in Romans 13:1-7 about how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the United States, no matter which political party is in the majority?