

# Yes, Another Sermon Due To An Election Sunday AM 11/01/20

## Introduction:

If you are like me, you will be glad when this election is over. On Tuesday night and the days ahead there will be a lot of anxiety and nervousness over who will be declared the winner. Politics and government can be very polarizing. We need to look at this from the right perspective.

### I) Jesus Asked About Paying Taxes

**Matthew 22:15** *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. 16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. 17 "Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?*

#### A) Difficult question for various reasons

1. Pharisees against the idea of paying taxes to a foreign government.
2. Herodians agreed and worked with the Roman Government.
3. The coin inscription had an image of Caesar and referred to him as a god.
4. The disciples had to wonder how Jesus would answer them.

#### B) Jesus's Answer

**Matthew 22:19** *"Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" 21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He*

***said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."***

1. Whose image is on the coin? An obvious answer, they knew the coin was a Roman coin.
2. Rome had a right to demand their coin be paid back to them.
3. But also "render to God the things that are God's"

## **II) What Is Caesar Due?**

### **A) Our responsibility to government – pay taxes**

1. We pay taxes even if we don't like "Caesar"
  - a. Their Caesar was not term limited or voted out of office.
  - b. Even if they did not like the programs of Caesar.
2. In order to have a government of man there must be taxes, ***1 Samuel 8***
3. No one likes taxes but government and their services demands the payment of money, i.e. taxes.

***Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for***

*good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

1. Role of government -- in **verse 6**.
2. **Verse 7** render to all their due different types of taxes.

**B) Our responsibility to government – honor/respect**

**1 Peter 2:17** *Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*

1. Not necessarily personally but their position.
2. Be careful of how you speak of the government officials.

**C) Obedience**

**Romans 13:1** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

1. Be subject or submit because they are appointed by God for our good.

**Romans 13:4** *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

2. Does not apply to the individual but the importance of government.

***1 Peter 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.***

3. Mentions different levels of government and the officials.
4. Government does provide things that are necessary. Think of what it would be like if our government disappeared tomorrow. Ex. Shah of Iran left the country went into chaos.

#### **D) Prayer**

***1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.***

1. Includes all of those in authority.
2. Purpose is so we, Christians, can lead a quiet and peaceable life.
3. This may lead to a couple of questions:
  - a. Can I pray for this person?
  - b. Can I pray for this leader when I do not agree with them? Change of heart?

### **III) Render to God**

**Matthew 22:21** They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

A) What is God due? Allegiance

**Matthew 22:36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

1. Obedience – God always comes first.

**Acts 5:27** And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

2. The conflict between our service to God and our government has been rare.
3. Book of Revelation shows the conflict between evil governments and God.

B) Faith

**Psalms 118:8** It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.

***Psalms 146:3*** Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. ***4*** His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.

***Isaiah 31:1*** Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!

1. Do we trust God or seek political, popular, power
2. In ***John 6*** the people wanted to make Jesus their king but He did not allow it.

***John 18:36*** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

3. Political power will not solve our problems.
4. Must change the heart of men and then things will get better.

***Revelation 13:1*** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ***2*** Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ***3*** And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ***4*** So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the

***beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"***

5. Nations can be like brute beast.
6. People can put their faith in the power of the government.
7. As Christians the government is not our God; we worship only the God of heaven, .

#### **IV) Application**

##### **A) Keep things in perspective**

1. Every four years we hear "this is the most important election ever".
2. God's word is still true and God still rules in heaven above.

**B) Beware of distractions--** Our purpose is to follow Christ, walk in the spirit, seek the kingdom of God first, etc.

**C) Don't forget to submit and honor our government**

**D) Pray for our rulers**

**E) Trust in God and trust God.**

***Daniel 4:34*** ***And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"***