

Message Notes

Render Unto Caesar

Matthew 22:15-22, Pt. 75

Pastor Steve Leonard

June 25, 2006

Message Outline

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I. God's authority extends over the Roman taxes and Jewish living. (18-22)

A. The Pharisees and Herodians question Jesus' authority. (15-17)

B. Jesus' authority extends over the Roman poll-tax. (18-21a)

C. Jesus' authority extends over Jewish living. (20-21)

II. Jesus' authority extends over our taxes and living.

A. We question Jesus' authority over our lives too.

B. Jesus' authority extends over our interaction with government.

1. Believers worship through paying taxes.

2. Believers worship through submitting to government.

C. Jesus' authority extends over our living.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 21:23-22:22 again. Compare and contrast this text with Matthew 21:23-27, 21:28-46 and 22:1-14. Discuss how this short narrative fits into the flow of Matthew's Gospel account.
2. The Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians mention qualities that characterize Jesus (16-17). List these qualities. Should we take these qualities as true of Jesus from the mouths of these two groups? How does Jesus' response affirm or deny what they say about Him here?
3. Read Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3 and 1 Peter 2:13-15. How do these passages give further explanation to what Jesus means when He says to "render unto Caesar"?
4. Read Acts 5:27-32. How does this passage reconcile with the passages mentioned in Question 3? How do all these passages reconcile with the reality that Jesus advocated submission to a Roman government that was at odds with the purposes and ethics of God?
5. What implication can we draw from Jesus' admonition to the Pharisees and the Herodians that they need to render to God what is His? (Refer back to the previous passages in chapters 21 & 22 for further insight.)

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. Pastor Steve mentioned some ways that we struggle with Jesus' authority much like the Jewish leaders did. What are some areas that come to mind in which you struggle with Jesus' authority?
3. How does the Gospel help us to resubmit ourselves to Him?
4. What are areas in our lives in which we need to render unto "Caesar" what belongs to Caesar?
5. What are areas in our lives in which we need to give to God what belongs to God?

What's Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace!

We believe that gathering in small groups of 6-12 people to study the Bible, pray for each other and care for each other is the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

While Growth Groups are on hiatus for the summer, they will resume again following the Fall Kick Off.

For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.