

**Vote Jesus the Truth!**  
Session 8: "Now What?"

Mark 12:13-17

*Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him. They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?"*

*But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"*

*"Caesar's," they replied.*

*Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."*

*And they were amazed at him.*

Romans 13:1-7

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness.*

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

- 1. What does it mean to “give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s”? In the context of our modern society and government, what things do we “give back to Caesar”? In the context of our relationship to God, what things do we “give to God”?**
- 2. Are there any examples that you can think of that we currently face that require us to make a choice between “giving back to Caesar” and “giving to God”?**
- 3. What do you think Paul means in Romans 13 when he says that “there is no authority except what God has established”? What does it mean for us to “be subject” to those authorities?**
- 4. Paul says in Romans 13 that the rulers “hold no terror for those who do right.” Is this always the case? What examples can you think of – from our country or from other places around the world – where rulers do hold terror for those who do right? What do you think Paul means by this statement?**
- 5. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul urges that “petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving” be made for kings and all those in authority. What do you think is the difference between “petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving”? Think of an example of each of those types of prayers. Why would Paul encourage us to make all of those types of prayers for our leaders?**
- 6. Notice in 1 Timothy 2 that Paul says that the purpose of those prayers is “that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” How do prayers for our leaders achieve that purpose? What other things should we do “that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”?**

7. What does it mean to “submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority”?
8. How do you think that submitting to the human authorities “silences the ignorant talk of foolish people”?
9. Can you think of any examples of ways that people “use their freedom as a cover-up for evil”? Understand that the freedom that Peter is talking about is not political freedom; it is spiritual freedom. What is “spiritual freedom”? How might people use that “as a cover-up for evil”?
10. I mentioned in the sermon on Sunday that the four phrases in 1 Peter 2:17 are Peter’s explanation for how we live as free people in the “right” way: “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.” Let’s unpack each of those phrases and discuss what they mean and how we do those things.
11. The focus of this series has been on how we “vote Jesus the truth.” As a result, there have been a number of things that I’ve discussed that challenge us to consider our words and our actions as we relate to others, particularly in the context of the election we’ve just finished. Is there anything in particular that God has shown you through this study – either an encouragement to keep doing something you’ve done, or an admonishment to be careful about something? Is there anything God is calling you to do going forward in the way that you engage others in discussions about political and spiritual matters?