# Understanding Jesus and the Tribute Money: Honor God and Earthly Authorities



Explore Jesus' teaching on honoring God and earthly authorities through the tribute money, gaining wisdom for faith and daily life.





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### Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study on the encounter between Jesus and the question of tribute money in Matthew 22:15—22. This passage captures a profound teaching moment where Jesus navigates a tricky question about paying taxes to the government. The phrase "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's" is often quoted but not always fully understood in its rich biblical and cultural context.

In this study, we journey through the Gospels focusing on this story to uncover essential lessons about the relationship between our responsibilities to earthly authorities and our ultimate loyalty to God. Jesus calls us to honor both realms wisely and faithfully, challenging us to think deeply about where our allegiance lies and how we live out our faith in a complex world.

Each day we will reflect on key Scripture passages, explore the meaning behind Jesus' words, and seek how to apply these truths practically. As we progress, consider how this teaching shapes your own view of authority, citizenship, and worship. This study will equip you to hold God's kingdom first while navigating the demands of life in society.

Let's embrace this opportunity to engage with Scripture thoughtfully and seek wisdom from Jesus' example. May your heart be open to learning and growing in grace throughout this journey!





# Day 1: W Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties









Day 1: " Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties

### Your Verse

Matthew 22:15–22 NIV – "Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words."

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 13:1 "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."
- Psalm 45:11 "Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord."







Day 1: 🐯 Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties

### Devotional: Balancing Earthly and Divine Loyalties

Jesus' encounter with the Pharisees in Matthew 22:15—22 reveals a critical test of loyalty. They sought to trap Him by asking if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, hoping to catch Him in a contradiction. Jesus responds with profound wisdom, asking whose image is on the coin and instructing, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

This moment invites us to reflect on the tension between earthly authority and divine authority. Our culture often challenges us to pick sides or confuse the roles of government and God. Yet, Jesus clarifies that honoring one does not exclude honoring the other; they operate in distinct spheres. We owe respect and obedience to governing authorities because God has permitted their rule. Simultaneously, God deserves our highest allegiance because we bear His image and belong ultimately to His kingdom.

This passage urges us to consider where our primary loyalty lies and how we balance duties as citizens and as followers of Christ. The challenge is to give each its due consideration without compromising our commitment to God's lordship.







Day 1: 🖏 Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you personally understand the relationship between your faith and your civic duties?
2.	In what ways might we inadvertently give to 'Caesar' what belongs to God?
	How can Jesus' teaching influence your actions toward authority in daily life?







Day 1: 🖏 Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties

# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you faced a conflict between obeying God and obeying worldly rules.
2.	Reflect on what it means to bear God's image in your daily decisions.
	Consider practical ways to 'render unto Caesar' while still prioritizing God.







Day 1: 🖏 Jesus' Challenge and Our Loyalties

# Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to discern how to honor You above all while responsibly engaging with the world around me. Teach me to respect earthly authorities, recognizing Your sovereignty over all things. Guard my heart from confusion or fear and embolden me to remain faithful to Your kingdom. May I give You what is truly Yours every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.















### Your Verse

Matthew 22:20 NIV - "Jesus said, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Genesis 1:27 "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory."







# Devotional: Living as God's Image Bearers

Jesus' question about the image on the coin points us back to a foundational biblical truth: human beings are created in God's image. The coin bears Caesar's image, making it fitting to pay taxes to Caesar. But we bear God's image, which calls us to a deeper, spiritual allegiance above any earthly authority.

Our identity given by God surpasses any political or social label. It shapes how we live, behave, and worship. This image is not mere outward form but a reflection of God's character, intention, and purpose in creation.

When Jesus says to render unto God what belongs to God, He reminds us that our ultimate identity, purpose, and devotion stem from the fact we are His image bearers. This understanding prompts us to honor God with our whole lives, reflecting His righteousness, justice, love, and mercy in our actions.

Today, contemplate the implications of bearing God's image in your daily walk. How does this truth influence your relationships, choices, and priorities?







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What does it mean to you personally to be made in God's image?
2.	How does recognizing God's image in you shape your view of others?
3.	In what ways can you better reflect God's character in your daily life?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe how you see God's image in your own life.
2.	Reflect on barriers that might prevent you from fully living as God's image bearer.
3.	Set one goal to honor God's image in your interactions this week.







# Prayer for Today

**Father, thank You for creating me in Your image.** Help me to live in a way that reflects Your holiness, love, and grace. Transform my heart to be more like You each day. Let my life be a testimony of Your presence in and through me. In Jesus' name, Amen.















### Your Verse

Romans 13:6 NIV – "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing."

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority."
- Proverbs 24:21 "Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with rebellious officials."







# Devotional: Honoring Government as God's Servants

Romans 13 and 1 Peter echo the teaching that earthly governments are established by God to maintain order and justice. Paying taxes and obeying laws is part of our responsibility as citizens. When we respect authority, we align ourselves with God's design for society.

However, submission to authorities is always within the limits of God's ultimate authority. When human laws conflict with God's commands, we are called to obey God rather than men, as the apostles affirm.

This delicate balance requires wisdom, discernment, and courage.

Respecting government doesn't mean uncritical acceptance; it means honoring the role God assigns while standing firm in faith and conscience.

Reflect on your relationship with authority figures and consider how you can live out this biblical principle thoughtfully and faithfully.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you currently relate to governing authorities in your life?
2.	What challenges have you faced in submitting to earthly authorities?
3.	In what ways can submission to government honor God's purposes?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time when obeying the law aligned with your faith values.
2.	Reflect on any tension you've felt between government rules and your beliefs.
3.	Consider how you can pray for leaders and authorities in your community.







# Prayer for Today

Lord, guide me to respect and honor those in authority as part of Your order. Help me to navigate my responsibilities with integrity, balancing obedience and faithfulness to You. Give me wisdom and courage to follow You above all. Amen.















Day 4: The Kingdom of God First

### Your Verse

Matthew 6:33 NIV - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world."
- Philippians 3:20 "Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there."







Day 4: The Kingdom of God First

### Devotional: Prioritizing God's Kingdom Above All

While Jesus acknowledges earthly authority with 'render unto Caesar,' He also reminds us that our primary citizenship belongs to God's kingdom. In Matthew 6, He teaches that seeking God's kingdom and righteousness takes precedence over material concerns and worldly power.

This prioritization redefines how we view authority, possessions, and our purpose. We live as citizens of heaven, bringing godly values into our earthly context but never compromising our allegiance to God.

This perspective frees us from fear or undue attachment to earthly systems. It calls us to represent God's kingdom well wherever we find ourselves, demonstrating loyalty to the King who reigns eternally.

Consider how adopting a kingdom-first mindset changes your approach to daily decisions, challenges, and relationships.







Day 4: 🗂 The Kingdom of God First

# Reflect and Apply

1.	What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first in your life?
2.	How can your allegiance to heaven impact your participation in earthly systems?
3.	In what areas do you need to refocus your priorities toward God?







Day 4: 🗂 The Kingdom of God First

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	List practical ways to seek God's kingdom in your daily routine.
	Reflect on moments you felt conflicted between worldly demands and spiritual values.
3.	Write a prayer committing your citizenship to heaven's kingdom.







Day 4: The Kingdom of God First

# Prayer for Today

Father, help me to keep Your kingdom as my highest priority. Teach me to live with heavenly perspective amidst earthly responsibilities. May my actions honor You and reflect Your righteousness. Strengthen my heart to be faithful in all things. Amen.







# Day 5: T Jesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace









Day 5: Tesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace

### Your Verse

Matthew 22:22 NIV - "When they heard Jesus' answer, they were amazed. So they left him and went away."

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Colossians 4:6 "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt."
- James 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit."







Day 5: Tesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace

# Devotional: Modeling Jesus' Wisdom and Grace

Jesus' response to a trap question models divine wisdom mixed with grace and discernment. Rather than falling into their snare, He offered a profound answer that honored God, acknowledged earthly authority, and exposed the hypocrisy of His challengers.

This teaches us that wisdom in faith isn't just knowledge but the capacity to engage others carefully, speaking truth in love without arrogance or fear.

We are called to follow Jesus' example by being wise and gracious in our speech and decisions. This wisdom builds bridges while upholding God's honor in the world.

Reflect on how you can cultivate such wisdom and grace in your interactions.







Day 5: 1 Jesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace

# Reflect and Apply

	When have you seen wisdom and grace combined effectively in a difficult situation?
	How can you apply Jesus' approach in your conversations about faith and authority?
3.	What steps can you take to grow in wisdom from above?







Day 5: 1 Jesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time God's wisdom helped you navigate a challenge.
2.	Reflect on your communication style—does it reflect grace and truth?
3.	Set a goal to practice patient and discerning speech this week.







Day 5: Tesus' Example of Wisdom and Grace

# Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus, grant me Your wisdom and grace to respond rightly in every situation.** Help me to speak truth in love and to act with discernment. May my life reflect Your example, bringing glory to God. Amen. 🔾 💬 🛠







# Day 6: Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World







Day 6: Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World

### Your Verse

John 17:14 NIV – "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world."

### Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."
- 1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world or anything in the world."







Day 6: N Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World

# Devotional: Standing Firm in Faith Amid Worldly Pressures

Jesus acknowledged the tension His followers face living in the world but not being of the world. As we balance honoring earthly authorities with allegiance to God, we must remain vigilant to protect our faith from worldly influences that conflict with God's truth.

Paul's call to put on the full armor of God reminds us of the spiritual battle involved in guarding our hearts and minds. Loving God above the world means prioritizing His ways even when society pressures us otherwise.

Jesus' teaching on rendering unto Caesar highlights the necessity of wise engagement—not withdrawal—from the world while firmly rooted in God's kingdom. This balance helps us shine as lights in a complex and often challenging environment.

Pray today for strength to stand firm and clarity to navigate the competing demands of faith and culture.







Day 6: N Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World

# Reflect and Apply

	What are the biggest challenges you face in living out your faith in today's culture?
2.	How can you put on God's armor daily to protect your spiritual walk?
3.	In what ways does your faith inform your response to worldly authorities?







Day 6: 
Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe a situation where your faith was tested by societal expectations.
2.	Reflect on spiritual disciplines that help strengthen your stand in faith.
3.	Write a prayer asking God to help you remain faithful amidst challenges.







Day 6: N Safeguarding Our Faith in a Complex World

# Prayer for Today

God, keep me strong and steadfast as I face the pressures of this world. Arm me with Your truth, righteousness, and peace. Help me to honor You above all else and to engage wisely with earthly authorities. May my faith be a shining light in every place I go. Amen. () ()





# Day 7: X Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today







Day 7: 🗱 Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today

### Your Verse

Colossians 3:23 NIV - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- Luke 20:25 "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."







Day 7: 💥 Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today

# Devotional: Putting Jesus' Teaching into Daily Practice

Our study concludes by inviting us to practically live out Jesus' instruction in our everyday lives. Rendering unto Caesar means fulfilling our civic duties — paying taxes, obeying laws, and contributing to society responsibly. Rendering unto God means dedicating our hearts, talents, and all aspects of our lives to His glory.

As Paul exhorts in Colossians, this dual commitment calls us to wholehearted service, not divided loyalty. Our work, relationships, and conduct become expressions of our ultimate allegiance to God's kingdom even while engaging faithfully with earthly responsibilities.

*Living this principle brings harmony to our identity and actions.* It frees us from false dichotomies and lets us shine as followers of Christ in every realm.

Take time today to evaluate how you can better integrate these truths into your life moving forward.







Day 7: 💥 Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How well do your actions reflect balanced loyalty to God and society?
2.	What areas of your life can you more fully dedicate to God's glory?
	How can you be a positive influence in your community as a follower of Christ?







Day 7: 💥 Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today

# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a change you want to make to better honor God in your daily routine.
2.	Reflect on how your civic duties can be acts of worship.
	Plan a way to witness God's love through your daily interactions this week.







Day 7: 🗱 Living the 'Render to Caesar' Principle Today

# Prayer for Today







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