

Remnant Life Church
September 21, 2025
Jesus and the Political Question
Matthew 22:15-22

- Last Sunday we spoke of what it means to be in the world but not of it
 - My stance on speaking about politics...
- Every four years in November, we experience something in our country that is becoming more and more unique in the world today
 - An orderly transfer of power at the highest level of government
 - 195 recognized nations in the world
 - Less than half have fully free elections
 - Power in most countries is not left to the people to decide
 - It is either through...
 - Royalty – line of birth succession
 - Military - coup
 - Dictatorship – power is absolute
 - Communism
- In this country our political system has become cumbersome and bloated but still holds to the original design
- Presidents – unique men of great abilities with equally great flaws
- Here are a few of those unique elements...
 - At 78 years, 220 days, Donald Trump is the oldest ever to be elected to the office surpassing his predecessor Joe Biden who was 78 years, 61 days at the time of his election
 - The youngest man elected was John Kennedy – age 43
 - However the youngest to serve was Theodore Roosevelt – age 42
 - He took office after the 25th president William McKinley was assassinated in 1901
 - The physical differences between them varied greatly
 - James Madison (4th) was the smallest at 5’4” and weighing just over 110 pounds
 - At the other end of the scale, literally, was William Taft (27th) who came in at a conservative 345 pounds
 - I say conservative because it was well documented that he got stuck in the WH bathtub the first time he used it
 - And Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president at 6’4”
 - George Washington was the only president to be elected unanimously as there was no opposition party in the first election
- Of course, what the president says, about any and every subject, has always been and remains world news
 - With social media, however, every word spoken, every thought, every reaction by the president, in fact every person, regardless of their experience, their wisdom,

their maturity, or capabilities has the potential to be instantly known around the world.

- All this, obviously, to our great detriment
- What is even more distressing is that Hollywood and those in the entertainment industry - those who pretend for a living – are intently listened to as they have been christened the melting pot of conventional wisdom
 - When in reality they are fully devoid of conventionality and wisdom
- But what is the place of the Christian in a time like this especially as it relates to the politics of this nation?
- First, we must know who and what the Bible says we are in relationship to the world...
 - **John 15:19** - *If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*
 - **Rom 12:2** - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
 - **2 Cor 2:12** - *What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.*
 - **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** - *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- Jesus had the question of politics put before Him and as in all things, we look to Him to guide and determine our actions

READ - Matthew 22:15-22

What is happening here?

- The Pharisees have held a meeting and have decided they have been embarrassed by Jesus for the last time
 - It is Tuesday of the final week of Jesus' life
- Among his teachings that day Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast and it is obvious to everyone listening that He is speaking of the Pharisees and their hypocrisy
- Their plan has become pretty direct and simple: kill Jesus
- To accomplish this, they were determined to trap Jesus
 - They believed they had created a question that even Jesus could not answer without putting Himself into trouble with one side or the other

- Dirty politics makes for strange alliances even in biblical times
 - The two primary forces coming against Jesus, the Pharisees and the Herodians, were usually against each other
 - Pharisees – Jewish sect who lived in strict and rigid adherence to the traditions and laws first given by Moses
 - Most who Jesus encountered were corrupt, egotistical, and lived nothing like a godly example to the people
 - Herodians – a public political party of Hellenistic Jews (Greek influence) who were friendly toward and supporters of Herod the Great
 - Later they also supported Herod Antipas who oversaw the executions of both Jesus and John the Baptist
 - The Pharisees were against taxes because they were put in place by the Roman government to support their system which was oppressive to the Jews
 - The Herodians supported taxes because it funded their efforts on behalf of the Roman government
 - They thought if they could get Jesus to speak against paying taxes, against the law of Caesar, they could have Jesus arrested, possibly even have Him executed on the charge of treason
 - On the other hand if He supported the paying of taxes the Jews and the Pharisees would rise up against Him
 - Either way they thought they had him trapped and one side or the other would demand Jesus' execution
 - What was Jesus' response?
 - First – he saw through their initial vain and insincere flattery
 - They were actually approaching Jesus in the same way that they required others to approach them
 - Second – he brought to their attention the truth
 - Jesus asked for a coin
 - A denarius was a silver coin minted by the Roman government
 - It was expressly for the purpose of the tax and the only acceptable form of currency
 - This is what the money-changers did at the temple courtyard during tax time
 - The coins minted by the government had an image of Caesar on one side and a written inscription proclaiming Caesar as god on the other
 - Jesus' answer was very simple – give to Caesar what belongs to him and give to God what belongs to Him
 - As Christians we live in the world but we are not to be of it – meaning to live not as the world does
 - But we do follow the laws of the land so long as it does not contradict the law of God in the Scriptures

- This is why at RLC we provide giving statements to take full advantage of what the government allows in easing our tax burden today
 - This is not cheating God it is, like the Christians of Jesus time, living within the governmental system of the day
- Which brings us to this question...
 - Since Jesus endorsed living within the system of government of the day how should we act in these volatile times?
 - The same way we should live every day

1. Be a peacemaker

- a. **Matt 5:9** – *blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the Children of God*
- b. Our actions speak to who we are
- c. Has a political argument ever changed another person's stance?
- d. Are you a mature enough Christian to walk away?
- e. If not, why not?

2. Refuse to speak negatively

- a. It is easy to pile on, but resist that temptation
- b. Social media is a dangerous thing because of anonymity
- c. **Matt 15:18** - *But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.*
- d. We must guard our hearts so that it does become an opening for satan to bring more in that leads us away from God
- e. **I Peter 5:8** - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
- f. Sober – calm and collected in spirit; under control; aware

3. Earnestly pray

- a. **I Tim 2:1-4** - *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 all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*
- b. There is a blessing attached to this command
 - i. Live peaceful and quiet lives
 - ii. Prayer impacts our surroundings and changes what is happening
- c. There is a glimpse of the character of God
 - i. It pleases Him when we do this
 - ii. He wants ALL people to be saved and know His truth

Be a peacemaker

Refuse to speak negatively

Earnestly pray for God's peace and wisdom in every situation