

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / MAY 12

TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

Read

Read Mark 12:13–17 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “The central question we have to wrestle with is not, ‘Who should we vote for?’ but, ‘How do we maintain our gospel witness in the midst of a politically chaotic culture?’”
- “God has created three institutions for human flourishing: Family. Government. Church.”
- “The first thing Jesus does is he doesn’t stop at their statements, but understands their stories. He knows who he is talking to.”
- “Jesus speaks and acts with biblical clarity.”
- “Your politics don’t drive your Christianity; it’s our Christianity which drives our politics.”

Group Discussion

1. In verses 13–14, what do the Pharisees and Herodians say to Jesus, and what is their real motive for asking their question?
2. What is the significance of Jesus asking for a denarius and his statement, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”? How might it shape our political and spiritual priorities?
3. What are some signs that we’re focusing more on politics than God’s Word? How can we realign our priorities?
4. How can we build better community and understanding while respecting different political views in our small group? What are some tangible ways of doing this?

DIG DEEPER

- Read Romans 13:1–10.** Paul speaks about submission to governing authorities and the fulfillment of the law through love. How do these verses challenge your understanding of your responsibilities to government and others, and how can your actions better reflect these teachings in your daily life?

PRAYER

- Ask God to grant us empathy and understanding in our political conversations, so that we reflect Jesus’ love, even when opinions differ.
- Pray that God would grant us wisdom in balancing our role as citizens with our higher allegiance to his kingdom and gospel witness.