

Rediscover Jesus, Part 74:
“The Question of Caesar or God”
Luke 20:19-26
 Ps. Eric Yee

**Submit to governing authorities
 as part of submitting everything to God’s authority.**

I. Jesus is asked an “either-or” question (vv. 19-22)

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰ So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. ²¹ So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²² Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”

Proverbs 26:28b: A flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 29:5: A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

Psalms 12:3a: May the LORD cut off all flattering lips.

II. Jesus gives a “both-and” response (vv. 23-26)

²³ But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴ “Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” ²⁵ He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²⁶ And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

Romans 13:1: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

1 Peter 2:13-14: Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 = First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(At least) Three of God’s purposes for governing authorities:

- To administer the justice required for protecting human life
- To enable people to fulfill the cultural mandate (“be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over [it]”)
- To provide a stable context for God’s people to share the gospel and make disciples

What does it look like for us to submit to governing authorities as part of submitting everything to God’s authority?

1. Pray for governing authorities
2. Pay your taxes
3. Obey the law
4. Share the gospel and make disciples

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