

Mid-Week Devotion



Who's Your Caesar

Read Luke 20:19-26 *Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and render to God the things that are God's.*

Caesars are not limited to just Jesus' day; we also have many Caesars in our lives today. A Caesar is anything that extracts something from you. It can take the form of an employer, a teacher, a relationship, even your family as they all place demands on your time. Your Caesar might be the state and federal governments, which place demands on your wallet. Even the church can be a type of Caesar, as it places demands on both your time and your wallet.

One day Jesus was teaching in the Temple and the scribes and chief priests sought to catch Jesus in treason, so they asked him a question concerning the paying of taxes. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar," they asked. Jesus answered "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." In other words, Jesus tells them and you to give all those things which place demands on your life their due, but also give God His due as well. For Christians this raises an important question, what is God's due?

Since everything we have is a gift from God, it might seem that everything is God's due. While that may be true, God is willing to forgo the giving of everything in lieu of one thing. In fact, this one thing is so important to Him, that He insists on us rendering it. What is this one thing you ask? Well, suppose you came home one evening from work and for no reason gave your spouse some flowers. Wow! She exclaimed, thank you so much. Then you replied, oh it was nothing, I had to pass by the flower shop anyway, besides they were on sale and with a coupon I found in the paper they really didn't cost that much. So you see it really was nothing. Does she even want the flowers now? No! It was never the flowers she wanted in the first place; it was your heart she wanted. It is the same with God, the one thing above everything else He insists on us rendering to Him, is our hearts. This is because if God has your heart, then nothing else really matters. This is what Jesus was trying to convey to the chief priest and scribes. Just like having your heart means everything to your spouse and loved ones, having your heart means everything to God; to have your heart is to have you. So as you go about your week, rendering unto your Caesars, feel free to give them your time, your money, and everything else you possess, only remember to render your heart to God. In doing this, you just might wake up one day with only one Caesar in your life, the one that holds your heart.

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