

Encounter these verses today:
*circle words that you identify with,
underline phrases or sentences you'd
like to remember, write questions about
the passage out to the side ...*



Paying Taxes to Caesar

Matthew 22:15-22 :: (NIV)

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. 17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, 20 and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

21 "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.



Pastor Joel | 10.28.12

Part 2: Giving To Caesar

Have you lost sight of "keeping the main thing the main thing"? What are distractions do you face in your own life?

What do you think it would be like to be an Ambassador in a foreign land?

How can you live as the image of God in the world around you?



Miss Something? That's okay!
You can download this sermon at flushingcommunity.org

Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

Monday: 10.29.2012

Prayer Focus: Our church

Passage: Matthew 22:15-22

Insight: Pastor Joel spoke to us yesterday from this passage in Matthew. It's good to review it again today and reflect on the implications of Jesus' words. The religious leaders were attempting to trap Jesus and be able to arrest him as one who is against Roman authority. How often do we do the same things ... twisting God's Word into our own message or highlighting perceived conflicts.

What can we learn about Jesus' response? Did any of this have to do with taxes?

Tuesday: 10.30.2012

Prayer Focus: Our Student Ministry (7-12)

Passage: Daniel 3

Insight: Today's reading is a familiar story for many. The defiance of these 3 men against their king could easily be seen as a formula for us to rise up against our government when they don't align with our principles. But a closer look shows that they didn't rebel, they simply continued to be faithful—even to the point of facing death.

What does this story tell us about living out our faith in our culture today? How does our boldness compare to these men who wanted God to receive glory in their lives—either in death or in God showing up in a miraculous way?

Wednesday: 10.31.2012

Prayer Focus: Intercession (use the iPray Guide)

Passage: Psalm 72

Insight: This Psalm is a prayer recorded by King David near the end of his reign and it was directed toward his son, the new king, King Solomon. This prayer is a great model for us to pray for our leaders today. As you read it, pray it with city, township, state and federal leaders in mind. Whether you agree with them or not, our leaders need our prayers!

Thursday: 11.01.2012

Prayer Focus: Your School (teachers, admin, etc)

Passage: Acts 5:17-42

Insight: This is simply an amazing story. The disciples are arrested for preaching about Jesus and then God breaks them out of jail with such stealth that no one knew they were even missing! So there they are preaching again and when they are caught again they proclaim, "we must obey God and not man!"

At the end of the day, our country is great and powerful. I know many of us stand in the political climate with great uncertainty about its future strength. But ultimately it doesn't matter. What matters is the work of God in our life!

Friday: 11.02.2012

Prayer Focus: Our Children's Ministry (baby - 6th gr)

Passage: John 19:1-16

Insight: This Sunday, we will be looking at the tension that exists between "divine election" and "free choice." Do we really have a say in who will be our president or does God ordain that leader? In our passage, Jesus is facing his death and Pilot reminds him of his authority over Jesus.

As you reflect on Jesus' response to Pilot, what do you think about the authority of men over us? What does this tell us about God's role in all of this?

iPray

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