

WEEK 51:

# CAESAR AND TAXES

## PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 20:19-26

## RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Daniel 3 and 6, Matthew 10:34-39, Mark 12:13-17,  
Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-6, 1 Peter 2:13-17

“How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?’ The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that ‘an unjust law is no law at all.’”

- Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from a Birmingham Prison

## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

**Read Luke 20:19-22.** What is the political and personal significance of the question the scribes and chief priests ask Jesus? In your opinion, what would similarly be an extremely heated and contentious issue in our culture that someone could ask Jesus about?

**Read Luke 20:23-26.** Explain Jesus’ answer in your own words. What pitfalls does He avoid with His answer? What deeper spiritual realities does He point to?

What about your life would change if you lived with an active awareness of the fact that God’s image is stamped upon you? What identity does this give to you? What posture in life does this identity give to you?

Where in your life are not giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s? Why?

**Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7.** How does the gospel shape our perspective on politics? Are you overly hopeful or overly despairing about our government or world governments? What would it look like for us to pray for leaders always, submit to authority whenever possible and are there any unjust laws that we need to be standing against?

Pray for Jesus to give us His perspective on politics - to engage in a healthy way with a view of His justice and ultimate desire to see our leaders and our neighbors know the gospel. Ask Jesus to help us see how we can use our power and influence to love and serve our enemies.