

What Jesus Actually Taught ...

... About Government

Government. Can't live with it; can't live without it. And with the rise in the practice of "separation of church and state," especially with the threat of taxation retaliation from the IRS, the church has become increasingly disengaged from government on many levels. It used to be religion was the chief taboo topic of conversation, but if you want to start a vociferous war of words, Facebook post your thoughts on government sometime! Government ... what did Jesus actually teach about it? Join us for this week's Conversation to find out.

Matthew 22:15–22

1. Christians are citizens of _____.

2. Christians are _____ to _____

_____ both.

3. We can influence government in two ways:

A. To influence _____.

B. To influence _____ by sharing our faith.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll focus my political activism in ways that make a positive impact (I'll be an influencer)
- I'll get involved with local government
- I'll commit to pray for our government leaders (Thursdays)

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Ezekiel 04

1. Which do you think was the oddest prophetic action Ezekiel was asked to do?
2. Why did Ezekiel object to the first cooking method prescribed in v. 12?

Reflect: What does it take to get your full attention when God is speaking to you?

Tuesday

Read: Ezekiel 05

1. What had Jerusalem (the people from the city) done to deserve God's judgment?
2. In the midst of the judgment, do you think the people had choices on how to respond to the punishments?

Reflect: If you were a person in Jerusalem, how would you respond to Ezekiel's prophesy? With defiance? With sorrow? With repentance? Or something else?

Wednesday

Read: Ezekiel 06

1. How will some of the people of Israel escape the sword?
2. What had Israel (the northern kingdom) do to deserve God's judgment?

Reflect: What did God want Israel to learn from this experience?

Thursday

Read: Ezekiel 07

1. What is the basis of God's judgment? (v. 3-4)
2. Will the wealthy be spared God's judgment?

Reflect: Why do you think God's people had forgotten who God was and turned away from God's commandments?

Friday

Read: Ezekiel 08

1. What detestable things did God show Ezekiel in this vision?
2. Who were doing the detestable things?

Reflect: Although the religious leaders had an outward appearance of faithfulness, they were also devoting their lives to false gods? What false gods do people devote themselves to in our culture? What do you think God will do about that?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*