



Thy Kingdom Come

Lordship: Caesar

Living in Two Kingdoms

MATTHEW 22:15-17 ESV

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”

MATTHEW 22:18-22 ESV

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a rock face or a close-up of a rough material, with a vertical light gray bar running through the center. The text is white and positioned on either side of the bar.

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- identity connected to their faith
- wanted nothing to do with Romans

Herodians

- identity wrapped in power/influence
- allied and aligned with Rome



The Question:

Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?

The Bigger Question:

What relationship should the people of God
have with governments on earth?

Kingdom Of God

Absolute Authority

Spiritual

Eternal

Now and Not Yet

We Are Citizens

Kingdom Of Earth

Derived Authority

Earthly

Temporary

Imperfect

We Are Residents

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We Are Residents

“Christians are no different from the rest in their nationality, language or customs....They live in their own countries, but as sojourners. They fulfill all their duties as citizens, but suffer as foreigners. They find their homeland wherever they are, but their homeland is not in any one place... They are in the flesh, but do not live according to the flesh. They live on earth, but are citizens of heaven. They obey all laws, but they live at a higher level than required by law. They love all, but all persecute them.”

- Letter to Diognetus | 125 A.D.

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING IN TWO KINGDOMS

1. As citizens of heaven, our first loyalty is to our King - Jesus.
2. As residents of an “earthly kingdom,” we should live in a way that blesses the people and places where we live.
3. We stand for righteousness and stand against wickedness, but our hope and trust is not affected by whether our earthly leaders are good or bad.
4. We live with a longing and hope for the day when Jesus brings His Kingdom in its fullness to earth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If “The Kingdom of God” is anywhere Jesus rules and reigns, is there an area of your life where you need to pray “let your kingdom come”?
2. In what tangible way can you, your family, and your community be the presence of God’s Kingdom in order to bless your neighborhood, your city, your state, your country, and the world?