

Based on the gospel for Sunday 18 October - Matthew 22:15-21

""Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and God what belongs to God. ""

Throughout our lifetime, we get to hear the same parables and verses from the Bible again and again. Some of those give us an instant sense of comfort. Others remain a mystery no matter how many times we've heard them before. This is one of the puzzling ones.

There are many different interpretations of this verse, and none seems to bring definite clarity to its meaning. Is it about money and earthly authority, politics and civil obedience? Is it really about paying tax? Or is it about freeing ourselves from worldly attachment to possessions? What are we supposed to be doing?

Perhaps, it's all of the above. God has given us a gift of free will, and we are expected to always be in the process of discernment. God isn't dictating how we should think or act. We are being invited to actively seek his wisdom, and to use the power of the Holy Spirit to try and make sense of this complex world with its messy domestic and international politics, global health and economic crises, personal dramas and dilemmas, and more.

God does not ask us to completely withdraw from the world. He wants us to actively pursue godly living that incorporates all of the human experience: government, voting, tax, and other issues that, on the surface, may not appear to be spiritual matters.

Lord, help us to deal with every part of our life in a way that reflects our faith. Amen.



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