

DAY 1: Be Careful of the Questions You Answer

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:15–18 (NIV) — *Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?”*

DEVOTIONAL

The Pharisees and the Herodians couldn’t agree on Rome, but they agreed on a trap. They built a question with only two answers, both designed to box Jesus in, and He refused to step inside their context. The same pressure shows up every election season, when a hundred issues get bundled into two boxes and handed to you as the only choices. Before you answer a question someone else framed, ask God what the real question is.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Where have you let a party, a channel, or a feed decide which questions you think you have to answer?

PRAYER

Lord, give me discernment to recognize a false choice, even when it’s dressed up as a spiritual one. Keep my convictions anchored in You and out of anybody else’s box. In Jesus’ name, amen.

NOTES

DAY 2: Kingdom Political

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:19–21a; 1 Chronicles 12:32 (NIV) — *“Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s.” ... from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.*

DEVOTIONAL

The people testing Jesus pulled Caesar’s coin out of their own pockets, already living under the system they were questioning. Jesus told them to give back what is owed, honoring authority without being captured by it. There are two ways to misuse the influence God gave you: surrender it to a party, or stick your head in the sand and use none of it. The men of Issachar show the way through the middle: understand the times, know what to do, and be Kingdom political.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Which extreme pulls at you more right now, partisan captivity or checking out, and what would standing in the middle look like for you this week?

PRAYER

Father, help me honor the authorities You have allowed without handing them my convictions. Give me the understanding of Issachar, so I can use my voice to bring life. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 3: Whose Image Are You Bearing?

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27; Matthew 22:21b (NIV) — *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ... “and to God what is God’s.”*

DEVOTIONAL

Caesar’s coin carried his face and a claim to divine authority, so Jesus said to give it back to him. Then He finished the sentence: give to God what is God’s. You were created in God’s image, which means His claim on you goes far beyond money and reaches your life, your soul, your spirit, and your heart. No platform gets to stamp its image over His.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What part of your life that bears God’s image have you been holding back from Him?

PRAYER

God, I belong to You. Today I render myself back to You: my time, my voice, my heart, and my vote. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 4: King First

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 7:9; Philippians 3:20 (NIV) — *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ... But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

DEVOTIONAL

The cross is higher than the flag, higher than any party or platform. John saw a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language worshipping together before the throne, and Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven. That means you and the believer who votes differently than you can still worship side by side. We love our country, and we identify with the King first.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Is there a brother or sister in Christ you have pulled away from because of politics? What step can you take toward them this week?

PRAYER

Jesus, You are King before any nation or party. Tear down the walls politics has built in my heart, and help me see Your people the way You see them. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 5: Seek, Study, Steward

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:16 (NIV) — *I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.*

DEVOTIONAL

Kingdom discernment has three moves. Seek: spend time in God's presence and hear His voice before you hear the ads. Study: research the candidates and the issues so you understand the times. Steward: weigh positions, not parties, against the Kingdom agenda, and then vote.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Which of the three, seek, study, or steward, will you put into practice before Election Day on November 3, and when will you do it?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, speak to me before the noise does. Make me shrewd, keep me innocent, and help me steward my vote for Your Kingdom. Amen.

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