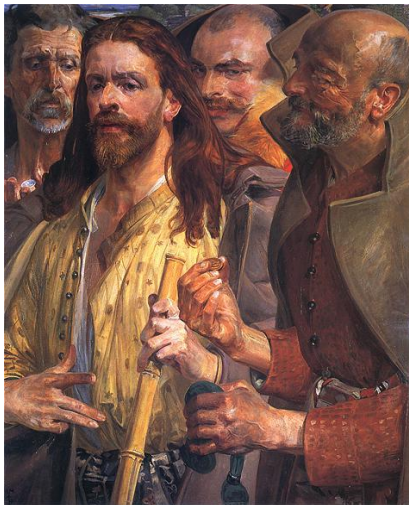


PREOCCUPIED WITH CAESAR



Render Unto Caesar

"Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Show me a coin. Whose likeness and inscription has it?" They said, "Caesar's."

He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Luke 20

Jesus did not tell them to fight against Caesar.

He told them to go ahead and pay their taxes.

But Jesus also told them---and us---something far more important:

"Render to God the things that are God's."

When we forget that part, we are in trouble.

Caesar represents government.

Caesar represents political power.

Caesar was not nearly as important to Jesus as he seems to be to us.

We think that if we can convert Caesar we can change the world.

But Caesar---government---belongs to the realm of powers and principalities which are immune to conversion.

You can preach the gospel to Satan and his principalities all day long, and it will go right over their heads.

The gospel is beyond Satan's grasp.

Instead of trying to Christianize the government (Caesar) we need to make sure we are rendering to God the things that are God's.

We owe God our love.



Beloved

Suki

***"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD;
and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might."***

Deuteronomy 6

Obeying that command brings more light into this world than a thousand favors from Caesar.

To love God takes focus.

It takes discipline.

Jesus added one essential:

***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.***

***And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."***

Matthew 22

As we try to get Caesar to change the laws in our favor we often forget what we owe God.

We owe God our bodies.

***I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present
your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is
your spiritual worship.***

Romans 12

Spiritual worship begins by daily offering our bodies to God as a living sacrifice.

Our redeemed bodies belong to God. If we don't take the time to present them to God daily, we will begin to think our bodies belong to us.

Big mistake.



We owe God our minds.

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12

If my mind has been redeemed, it belongs to God.

I need to keep reminding myself of this fact.

Otherwise my mind will soon sink back into the arms of the world.

A renewed mind is a mind that turns to God daily in thanksgiving.

A renewed mind deliberately turns away from the world and soaks itself in the Master's words.

***“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,
and to God the things that are God's.”***



If we render to God the things that are God's, we will bring more light into this world than a thousand “Christianized” Caesars could ever offer.

Prayer- Forgive us for being preoccupied with our rulers and lawmakers, Lord. Bring us to a place where we render our hearts to you, and to you alone... Holy Father; Bring us to a place where we are consumed with such a love for you that we willingly offer you our bodies, our minds, our every thought. Take our minds and transform them so that your words and nature penetrate us to the core, so that our need to control is turned into a steady trust in you and thankfulness as you perform your perfect works.

Maranatha Mirror

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Featured Art: Malczewski Jacek- Render unto Caesar Public Domain, Beloved and Present Your Bodies by Suki, Titian- The Tribute Money (1540)

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