

WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

September 26th, 2021

Matthew pt. 15

A. God, Government & Us:

"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? 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, and to God what is God's.'" Matthew 22:15-21

- *"Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour." Romans 13:7*
- *"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." 1 Peter 2:13-14*
- *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." Romans 13:1-2*
- *"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings!'" Acts 5:29*

1. Benefits from good government:

- ❖ Law and order. Genesis 9:6
 - ❖ Life and property protection. Exodus 20
 - ❖ Judicial system. Deuteronomy 1:12
 - ❖ Punishment for law breakers. Romans 13:4
- *"Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20*

2. God Owns Everything: *"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" Psalm 24:1*

B. Stewardship = the responsibility of managing the assets or affairs or property of someone else."

- *"Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the earth. Subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28*

1. Why give?

a) God wants us to remember to keep Him first in every aspect of our lives. *"Honour the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns to overflow!"* Proverbs 3:9-10 LB

b) Because it will transform us!

2. Giving changes us:

a) Giving makes us more like God. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."* John 3:16

b) Giving draws us closer to God. *"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."* Matthew 6:21

c) Giving is the antidote to materialism.

❖ *"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income...As goods increase so do those who consume them."* Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

❖ The antidote: *"Your trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Use your money to do good."* 1 Timothy 6:17-18 LB

❖ We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.

d) Giving strengthens our faith. *"Your trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need."*

❖ *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... test me in this', says the Lord Almighty, 'And see if I won't throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'" Malachi 3:10*

❖ *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion"* 2 Corinthians 9:7a

❖ *"Freely you have received; freely give."* Matthew 10:8

e) Giving is an investment for eternity. *"You should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others."*

❖ *By doing this you will be storing up your treasure as a good foundation for the future so that you may experience true life."* 1 Timothy 6:18-19

f) Giving blesses us in return. *"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."* Proverbs 11:25

❖ *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35

3. Getting the most from giving:

a) Give willingly

- ❖ *“I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity and all these things I've given willingly and with honest intent and I have seen how, with joy, how willingly your people here have given to you.” 1 Chronicles 29:17*
- ❖ *“For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have.” 2 Corinthians 8:12*

b) Give generously. *“With all my resources I've provided for the temple...I've given over and above everything.” 1 Chronicles 29:2-3*

- ❖ *“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” 1 Chronicles 29: 14.*
- ❖ *“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to Him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.” Mark 12:41-44*
- ❖ *“They gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in the service to the Lord's people.” 2 Corinthians 8:3-4*

c) Give joyfully. *“For God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7b*

d) Give thankfully. *“What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?” Psalm 116:12*

- ❖ *“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people” Psalm 116:13,17-18*