

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What do you think of the involvement of American Christians in politics? What is positive? What is negative?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Mark 12:13-17. What do you think motivated the Pharisee's and the Herodian's question? What were they hoping to achieve.
4. If Jesus had answered "Yes, it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar," what do you think would have happened? What would this suggest about the follower of Jesus involvement in politics? How do some Christians today follow the path of "Jesus and politics" and accommodating the present political system? What are the advantages and disadvantages of their position?
5. If Jesus had answered "No, it is not lawful to pay taxes to Caesar," what do you think would have happened? What would this suggest about the follower of Jesus involvement in politics? How do some Christians today follow the path of "Jesus or politics" by either withdrawing from or by rebelling against the present political system? What are the advantages and disadvantages of their position?
6. Why was everyone astonished by Jesus' answer? How does His answer show that His approach to politics is complicated and not simple? As an outsider rather than as an insider? As pursuing God's interests rather than human interests?
7. What are some ways we can follow Jesus' approach in our own involvement in politics today?

Application

What is one lesson you've learned from this passage which you will apply this week? How will you apply it?