

Last Sunday Message.....

THE POLITICS OF JESUS

Matthew 22:15-22

(Tags: politics, tax, unjust government, religion, God, undergrounds)

The Jewish people had to pay a lot of tax to the Roman Empire. Some say that all the taxes amounted to almost 50% of their income. But the tax mentioned in this passage is a tax connected with the census imposed during the birth of Jesus. This tax was one *denarius* annually (about 1/3 of a day's wage). The implication of this tax was the total surrender and submission of all Jewish people to Caesar. During this time Judas the Galilean rose as a Jewish revolutionary leader and led an armed revolt against Rome (Acts 5:37).

The question to Jesus was politically charged: "*Should we pay this tax? Yes or no?*" They wanted to know where he stood on the issue of Jewish nationalism; whether he sided with the revolutionary; whether he had a soft corner for Caesar. If Jesus answered yes, he would be seen as a traitor and rejected by all Jewish people. If he answered no, he would be crushed by the Roman soldiers. The revolutionary zeal of Judas the Galilean was still alive in everyone's memory. But Jesus reply amazed everyone. In his reply we find 4 things about Jesus:

(1) What Jesus Refuses: (i) Jesus refuses to take sides. (ii) Jesus refuses the idea that politics/governments is the only way to bring about change. Nor does he endorse the revolutionary approach of Judas the Galilean. He rejects both claims as the ultimate answer. (iii) But Jesus refuses to escape from the political mess. He does not condemn Caesar nor the Zealots for their extreme positions. But he has another way – the way of the Kingdom.

(2) What Jesus Challenges: Jesus does not reject Caesar's political authority and his claim to rule over the people. But he challenges Caesar because he had overstepped the boundaries laid by God's ordained wisdom.

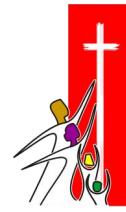
The inscription on the coin was: "*Tiberius Caesar. Son of God Augustus. High Priest*". This was a direct insult to the Jewish faith. Jesus Challenges this authority in two ways. (i) **He limits Caesar's authority only to the coin.** Give him what he wants, but nothing more. And if Caesar oversteps his authority he needs to be challenged. (ii) **He reminds Caesar that there is a God** who will judge and to whom everything belongs. Everything in the universe including every soul (Caesar included) bears God's image, and He will demand it back one day.

(3) What Jesus Launches: Jesus' primary message was always that the Kingdom of God had come to this world. This is a revolution of the Kingdom of God. This is a movement without money (Jesus had to ask for a coin); a movement without power (there was no army); a movement without luxury and comfort (a stone for his pillow); a movement without powerful connections or reputations (Jesus was relatively unknown); a movement free from tribal prejudices and nepotism. *This is a revolution that works its way from the inside-out.*

Who can join this revolution? When the power of money over me is broken, I can join; when the desire and lust for power over me is broken, I can join; when the need for human approval is overshadowed by Divine approval, I can join; when God gets bigger than tribe and family, I can join. Only then, can I truly make a difference for God's kingdom in this world.

(4) What Jesus Offers: Forgiveness. Love. Acceptance. Approval. Eternal life. Power of the Spirit. Kingdom of God within. The Revolution. Glory.

And Jesus calls us to follow him! Take Jesus. Take the Kingdom. Live it out. Follow Jesus.
- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND
THE WISDOM OF GOD

March 5, 2017; Vol. XII, Issue 8

City Church

Today's Service

Leader	: Imlisanen Longkumer
Speaker	: Kedo Peseyie
Pianist	: Vizolenua Solo
Ushers	: Vikhorieno & Nula Jamir
Flower	: Neelu Medikhrü

Praise & Worship

Welcome & Announcement – M. Odyuo

Reading: **Philippians 2: 1-11**

Mass Prayer	(i) Your personal concerns (ii) Church ministry concerns
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Hymn **No.207** : I Need Thee Every Hour

Offertory

Message

Lord's Supper

Hymn **No.88** : When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Benediction

Announcements

- Nagamese outing next Sunday.
- Youth outing today after the church service.
- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study from 5pm to 6pm will continue as usual.
- To avail transportation for Sunday service, contact Mego Yalie @ 8131814116.
- Thursday Women's fellowship at 4:30pm.

Everyone is invited to the tea fellowship after the worship service.

Philippians 2:1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

BAPTISM

Worshippers at City Church who are desiring to take baptism are requested to submit your names, addresses with contact phone numbers to the Associate Pastor by 2nd April. There will be personal counseling and baptism classes and those who are found to be spiritually prepared would be given baptism on 15th April.

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687 / 7085120374

PRAYER

- Today is NBCC "Children's Day of Prayer". Pray for the City Church Sunday School Department as they continue to lead each child to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of our Lord.
- Pray for the NBCC Christian Education Department as they continue to give leadership and training to Sunday Departments throughout Nagaland.
- Pray for Mr. Khriezohu Angami who was admitted in the Naga Hospital ICU. Pray for speedy recovery.
- Pray for the Church Building project. The Building Committee is working hard to start the foundations at the earliest. Pray for wisdom, unity, strength and health upon all the Building Committee members and their families.
- Pray for our young people seeking admission in different institutions both in Nagaland and outside the State. Pray for God's favor, leading and protection upon each one of them.
- Pray for the Life Impact 2017 (22-24 Sept 2017). Dr. Paul Windsor, International Director for Langham Preaching and professor at SAIACS, has accepted our invitation to be the speaker for the event. However, he has to apply for visa extensions in April from New Zealand. Pray that his visa will be granted.

Nagamese Fellowship

Guidance from God (Proverb 3:5-6)

As we go through life, we will experience new things, learn new things and do some of the things we have always been doing in a better way. Everyday everyone of us grow as a person - physically and mentally. We all have dreams, we all want to be somebody someday and so we need to lay the foundations of our lives carefully and properly today.

Where do we start then?

- God promises to guide us and lead us if we trust in Him and include Him in all our plans.
- Dream big, work hard today, trust in God and He will grant our success. - **Robert**

Enroute

Phil 3: 10-14: Apostle Paul in the passage is unfolding the highest dream he had in his life, which he wanted to realize at all cost. **Know Christ:** Paul has known Christ ever since he met the risen Lord on road to Damascus. Yet, he longed to know Him more and more intimately. His intense love for Christ made him count it all joy when suffering for Christ and **Fulfil Christ's Purpose:** Fulfilling His purpose was Paul's ultimate goal in life 'To win the prize for which God has called me in Christ Jesus.' God invites us to know Him and fulfil His purpose in our life. To do that we need to place our life unconditionally to His sovereign hands—today.

Sunday, February 26th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 58,630 Offering: ₹ 7,933 Mission: ₹ 1,000 Nagamese: ₹ 426 Total: ₹ 67,989