

Authority: Belonging to God

Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6 – 8; 1 Peter 2:13 – 17

Devotional Reading: Proverbs 31:4 – 9

**Background Scripture: Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6 – 8
1 Peter 2:13 – 17**

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- **Identify** the major themes that unite Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6 – 8; and 1 Peter 2:13 – 17
- **Analyze** God’s directive for relating to civil authorities who rule justly
- **Commit** to honoring God by praying for elected leaders

INTRODUCTION: The three Scriptural passages in today’s lesson were written in different circumstances, yet each confirms the sovereignty of God while advocating thoughtful respect for the government. Each passage relays conflict between groups in matters of church and state.

Key Verse: *17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.*

Mark 12:17

LESSON OUTLINE:

Teaching on Authority

Mark 12:17

Tribute to Authority

Romans 13:1, 6 - 8

Submission to Authority

1 Peter 2:13 - 17

SUMMARY: Mark 12:17 reminds us that believers have a responsibility to earthly government and divine authority. Romans 13:1, 6 – 8 also reminds believers to submit to governing authorities. 1 Peter 2:13 – 17 calls for submission to every human institution for the Lord’s sake. All three passages assert a consistent Biblical theme: that is - - respect and obedience to authority. This fulfills a civic duty and also reflects faith and commitment to God’s order.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Do you consider paying taxes a part of your spiritual integrity? Why or why not?*
2. *Do you struggle with power and with those who exercise power over you? In what way is submission difficult?*
3. *If you and your church were suddenly removed from your community, would you be missed?*

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<i>DAY / DATE</i>	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., Apr. 6th</i>	Wise and Righteous Counsel	Proverbs 11:3 - 6, 8 - 11, 14
<i>Tue., Apr. 7th</i>	Our Ultimate Allegiance Is to God	Acts 5:26 – 32
<i>Wed., Apr. 8th</i>	Godly Leaders Will Give an Account	Hebrews 13:16 – 212
<i>Thur., Apr. 9th</i>	Just Rulers Fear God	Samuel 23:1 – 7
<i>Fri., Apr. 10th</i>	The Ways of a Godly King	Deuteronomy 17:14 – 20
<i>Sat., Apr. 11th</i>	The Things that Belong to God	Mark 12:13 – 17
<i>Sun., Apr. 12th</i>	Show Honor, Love, and Righteousness	1 Peter 2:13 - 17