

Matthew 22:15-22  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024

- A relative, not absolute, authority
  - Acts 4:19-20; 5:29

### **3. Jesus empowers us to give our whole lives to God**

#### **Intro**

*"To be, rather than to seem." (Lucy S. R. Austen, Elizabeth Elliott: A life)*

#### **1. Jesus sees what our hearts are really like (vv.15-18)**

- The integrity of Jesus

- The hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Herodians

## **2. Jesus calls us to give our whole lives to God (vv.19-22)**

- Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's
  - Romans 13:1-7

- Give back to God what is God's

- Psalm 24:1

- Genesis 1:26-27

- No sacred-secular divide

- "If I pay my taxes in a way divorced from my love for God, I love God less. If I give to Caesar in a way divorced from my giving to God, I do not give to God as I ought. Like a child receiving a Christmas gift from her parents and greedily taking it to her room, locking the door behind her and refusing to say, "Thank you," loving things and doing our civic duty in a way unrelated to God snatches the lesser gift and ignores the greater giver." (Christopher Watkin, Biblical Critical Theory)