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Table Talk: Family Devotions

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006. Life in Two Kingdoms

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TABLE TALK

Life in Two Kingdoms

Prepare:

As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (based on Psalm 116:12-17)

C: What shall we render to the LORD for all the benefits to us?

R: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

C: What shall we render to the LORD for all the benefits to us?

R: We will pay our vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

C: What shall we render to the LORD for all the benefits to us?

R: We will offer to the LORD the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on His name.

Read: Read Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Reflect:

In paying taxes we acknowledge that God appointed authorities over us. When the Pharisees challenge Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar, they are attempting to get Jesus to reject the civil authority. Instead, Jesus acknowledges the civil authority and directs their attention back to God who grants all authority and all that should be rendered unto Him.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (Matthew 22:15-22) means for you as a family.

Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.

Pray:

The head of the household prays:

Dear Lord, we pray that Your kingdom not only come among us but that we recognize your ruling in the authorities of this world. Help us to render what is due in both kingdoms to Your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.