



WEEK 4 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 Samuel 8:7 the Lord told him, “Listen to the people and everything they say to you. They have not rejected you; they have rejected me as their king”

Revelation 20:4-5 Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. ⁵ They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Matthew 22:15-22 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to trap him by what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are truthful and teach truthfully the way of God. You don’t care what anyone thinks nor do you show partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ Perceiving their malicious intent, Jesus said, “Why are you testing me, hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” They brought him a denarius. ²⁰ “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked them. ²¹ “Caesar’s,” they said to him. Then he said to them, “Give, then, to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. The sermon's central premise is that "Jesus is not a political pawn." What does it mean to make Jesus a political pawn, and what are some ways Christians can unintentionally allow politics to shape their view of Jesus rather than allowing Jesus to shape their political convictions?
3. Read 1 Samuel 8:7 and consider Israel's demand for a king. The sermon points out that Israel essentially decided that "God was no longer enough" and wanted to be like the surrounding nations. Where do you see the temptation today for Christians to place their trust, security, or hope in human leaders, political parties, or government rather than in King Jesus?
4. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." The sermon applies this by describing Christians as "dual citizens." What does faithful citizenship look like when our ultimate allegiance belongs to Jesus? How should that affect the way we respond to political leaders we strongly disagree with?
5. The sermon emphasizes that because we bear God's image, we belong completely to Him. Romans 12:1 calls us to present our entire lives as a "living sacrifice." What areas of your life are most vulnerable to being influenced more by political or cultural pressure than by your allegiance to Jesus?
6. The sermon distinguishes between Scripture that is descriptive, prescriptive, and wisdom. Why is it important to understand the context and intended application of a biblical passage before using it to support a political position? What dangers arise when Christians take Scripture out of context to make a political argument?
7. The sermon closes with a contrast: "When Jesus is King" versus "When Jesus is a Political Pawn." What would it practically look like for you to keep Jesus as King in the way you vote, discuss politics, interact with people who disagree with you, and represent Christ in your community? What is one specific change you need to make?