

The Servant King



Part 34

**Do I *Really*
Have to Pay My
Taxes?**

Mark 12:13 – 17

The story of the **King**... who came to **serve**.

Mark 12:13 - 17

¹³ Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.

¹⁴ They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of God, because you can't be swayed by money or power."

The *Pharisees* were a **religious** group who **opposed** the Roman occupation of Palestine.



with the truth. Is it right

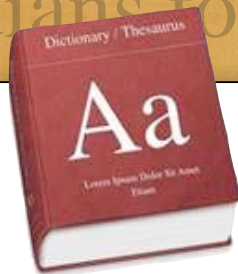
The *Herodians* were a **political** party that **supported** the policies of Rome.

Mark 12:13 - 17



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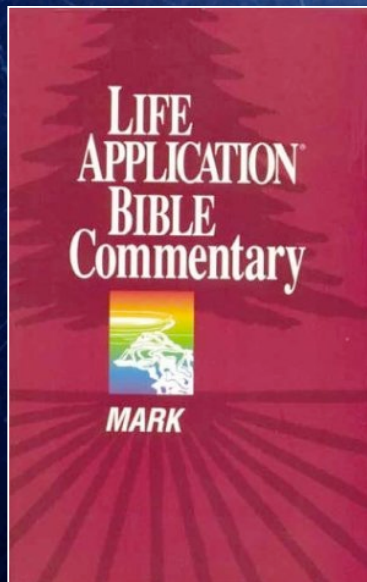
FLATTERY = AN ACT OR INSTANCE OF COMPLIMENTING SOMEBODY, OFTEN EXCESSIVELY OR INSINCERELY, ESPECIALLY IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING.

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pay or shouldn't we?"

LIFE LESSON

People appreciate genuine praise, but flattery is always manipulative. The men addressing Jesus hoped that Jesus would fall for it and fall into their trap. People whose egos are out of control or who have low self-esteem are in danger of falling prey to flattery. Jesus did not.



Mark 12:13 - 17

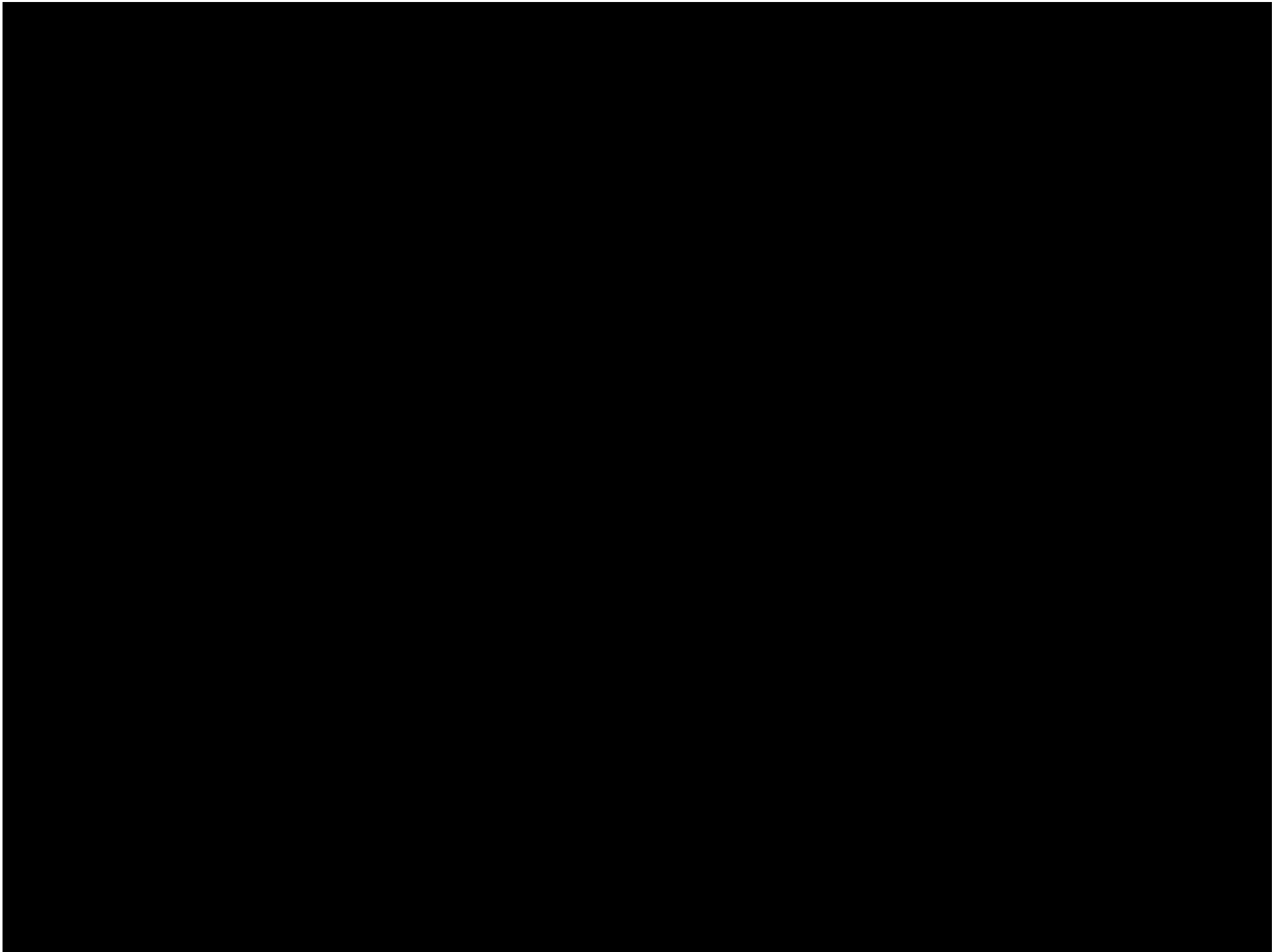
Land or produce tax = 10%
of all grain
20% of all fruit and wine

Poll tax = one day's wages
on everyone ages 14 - 65

Customs = 2 - 5% of the
value of the merchandise

to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we
pay or shouldn't we?"





Mark 12:13 - 17

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.”¹⁶ They

brought the coin, and he asked them,

“Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?”

“They replied.



Mark 12:13 - 17



But Jesus knew
you trying
me a denariu

Why are
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16 They

brought the coin, and he asked them,
“Whose portrait is this? And whose
inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

17 Then Jesus said to them, “Give
what is Caesar’s and to God what
is God’s.”
And they were utterly amazed.



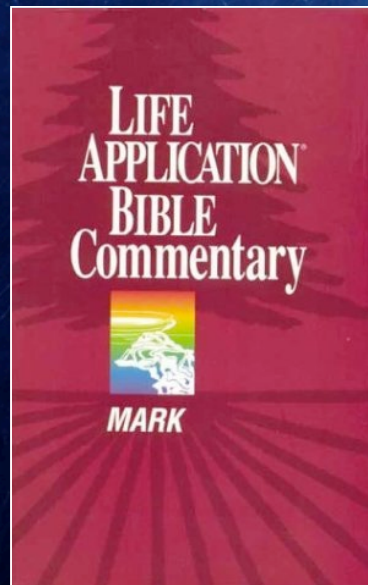
LIFE LESSON

Some people in the past gained great reputations for holiness by refusing to even look at a secular image.

But Jesus showed a different face to the world. He called for a worldly object, a coin, and recognized the title and power of a secular ruler.

He cared enough about the practical world to know whose image local coinage carried, and he didn't believe that handling the world's artifacts would pollute his character.

Jesus illustrates what it takes to connect and reach people today. We should be aware of our world, and what's going on in it, and use examples from everyday life. By understanding and respecting your audience, and by moving from the known to the unknown, you can introduce people to Jesus.



Mark 12:13 - 17

But Jesus knew
you trying
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Why are
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¹⁶ They

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“Whose portrait is this? And whose
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“Caesar’s,” they replied.

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Give
what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

And they were utterly amazed.



Mark 12:13 - 17

But Jesus knew their hearts and said to them, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a denarius and let me see it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

And they were utterly amazed at him.



Romans 13:1 – 7

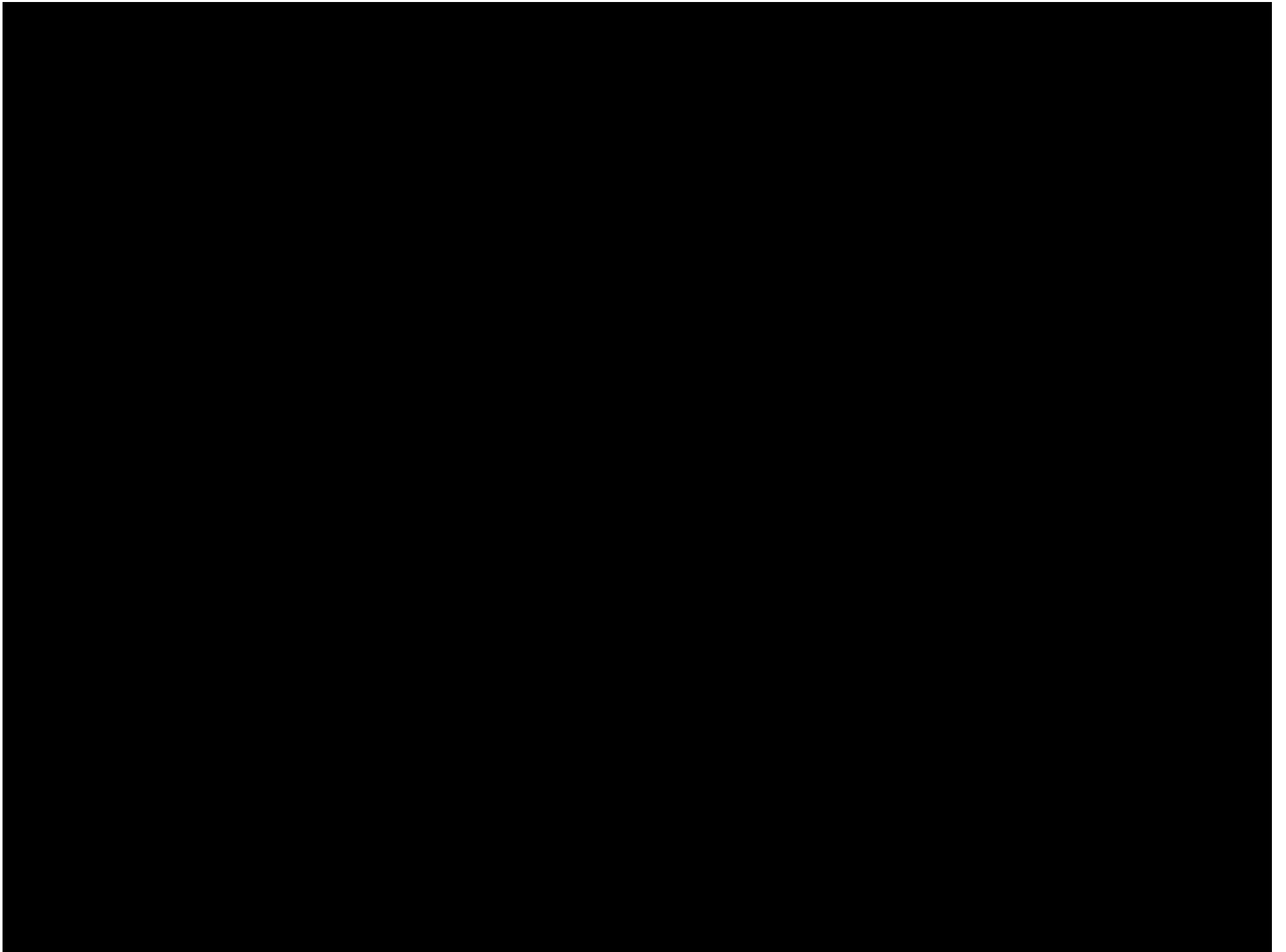
¹ Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you.

Romans 13:1 – 7

⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

Romans 13:1 – 7

⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. (NLT)



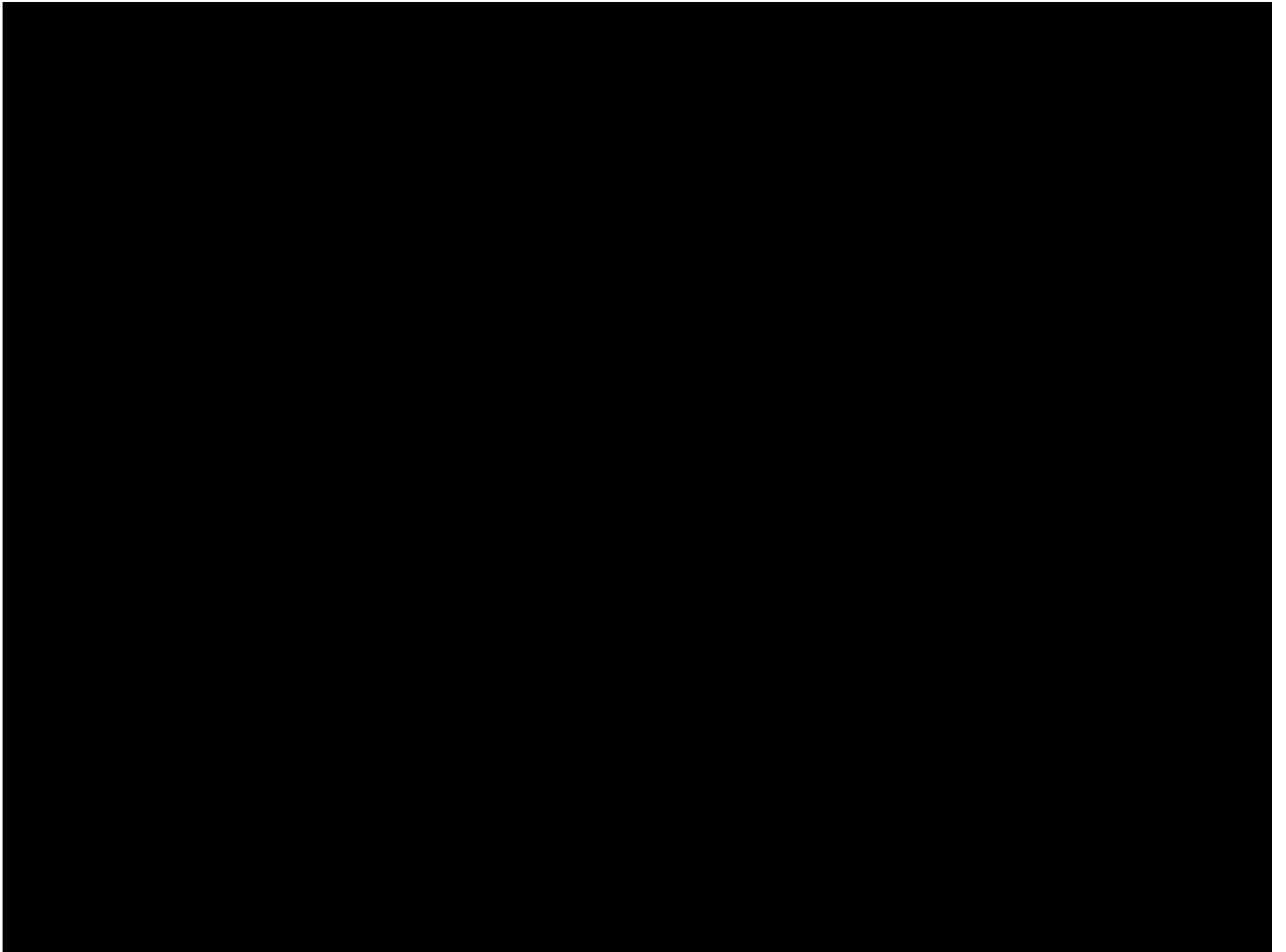
1 Timothy 2:1 – 6

¹ I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵ For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. (NLT)

1 Peter 2:13 – 17

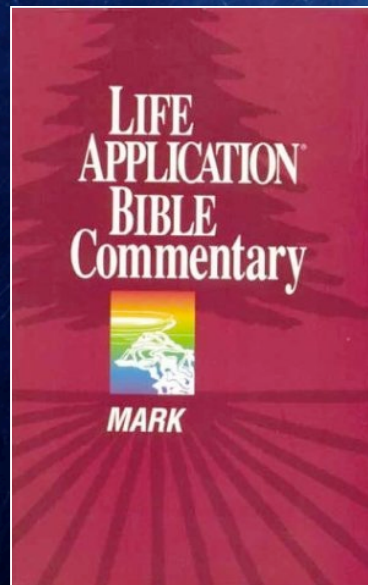
¹³ For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority —whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

¹⁵ It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. (NLT)



LIFE LESSON

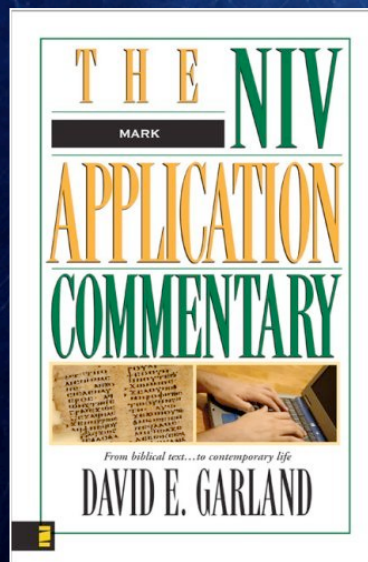
Jesus avoided the Pharisees' and Herodians' trap by showing that believers have dual citizenship. Our citizenship in the nation requires that we pay for the services and benefits we receive. Our citizenship in the kingdom of heaven requires that we pledge to God our primary obedience and commitment.

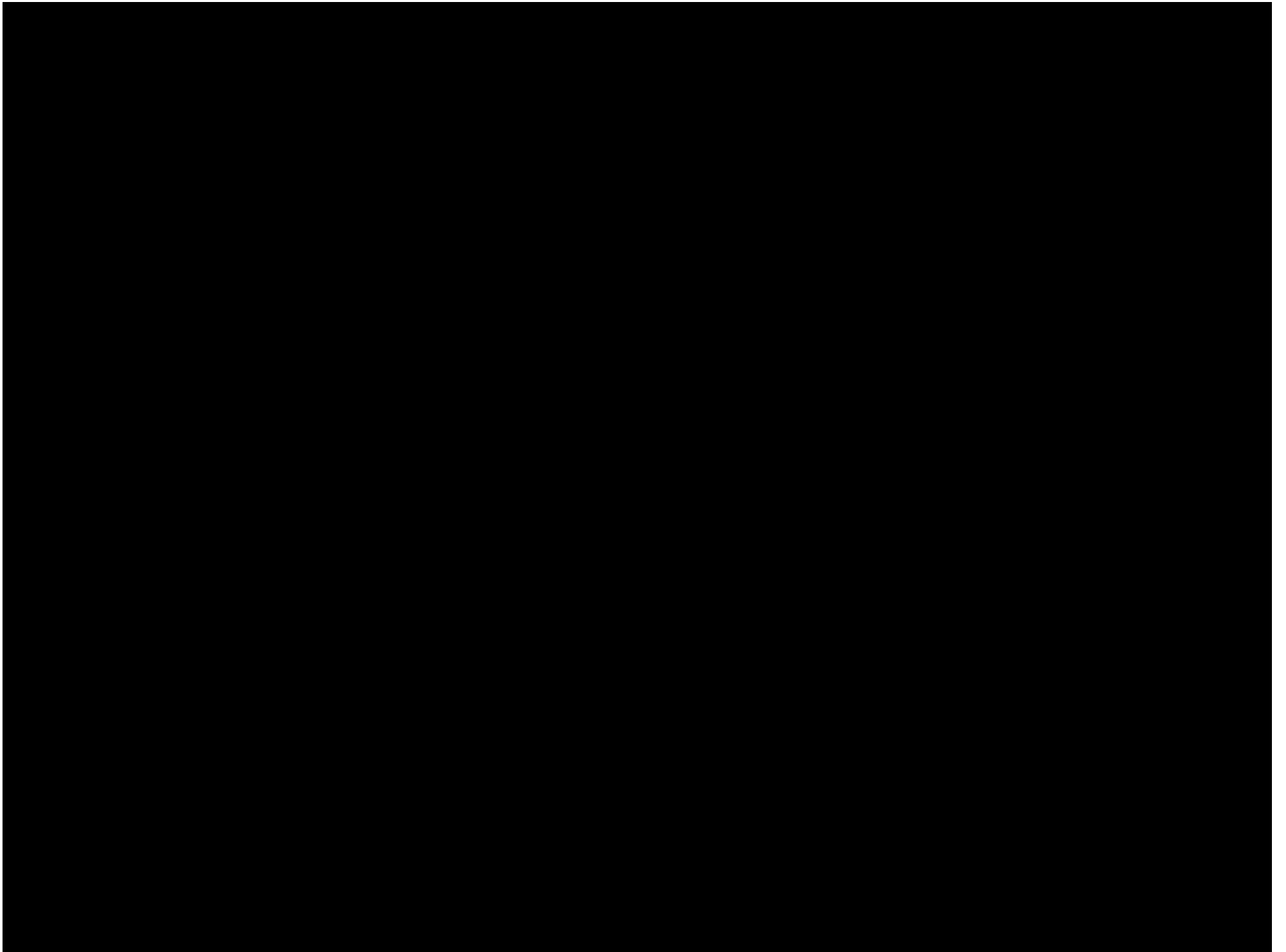


As God's followers, we have legitimate obligations to both God and the government. But it is important to keep our priorities straight. When the two authorities conflict, our duty to God always must come before our duty to the government.

LIFE LESSON

While Jesus rejects militant nationalism, he does not suggest that his followers drop out of society. He does not tell us to divorce ourselves from government.





Mark 12:13 - 17

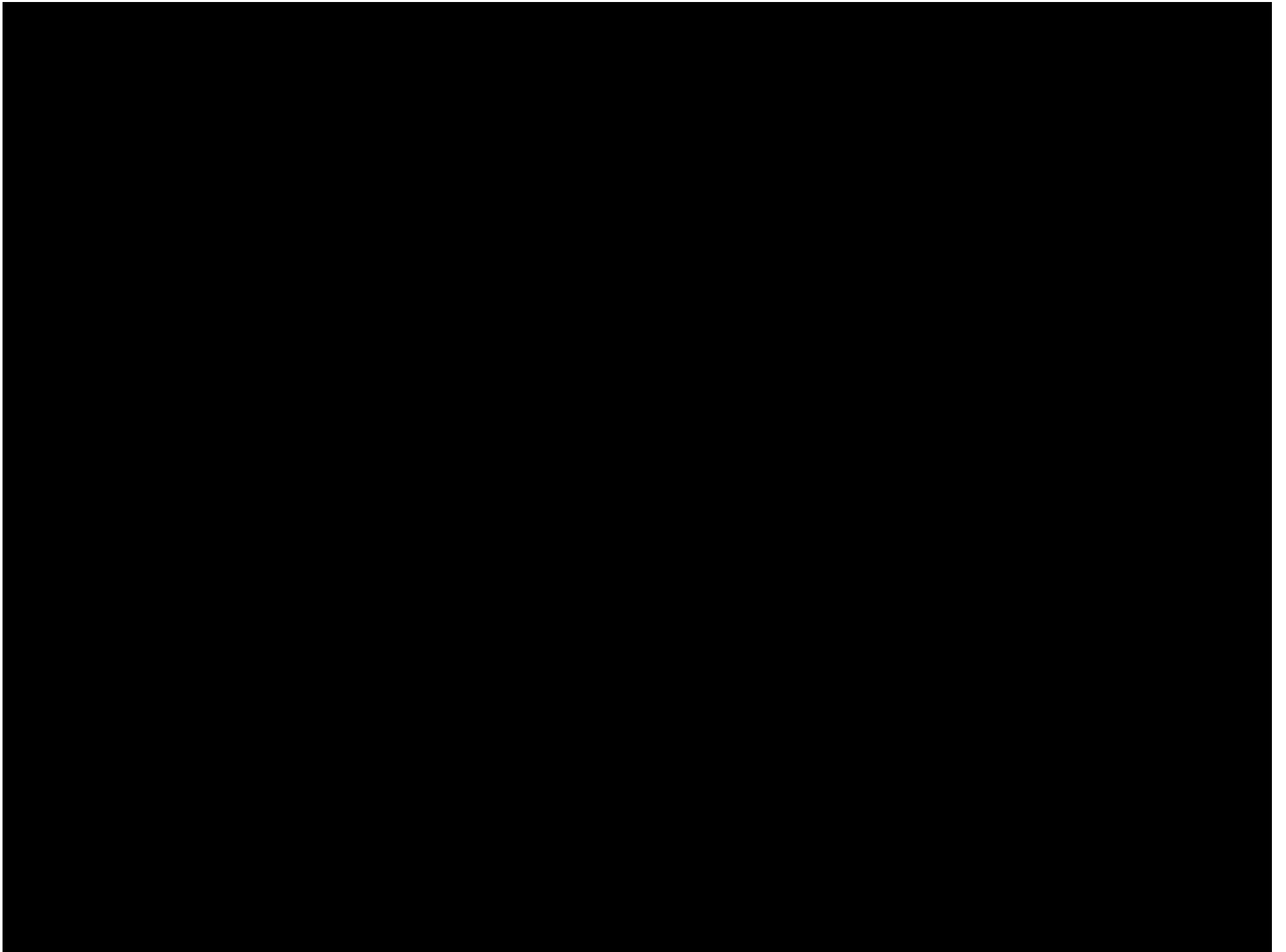
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17 Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

And they were utterly amazed at him.



Our Bodies

Our Time, Money,
& Energy

Give to God what is God's

Our Relationships

Our Commitment to
the Church



A silhouette of a person standing with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The person is centered against a background of bright, golden light rays that appear to be shining through a dark space, creating a dramatic and spiritual atmosphere. The overall scene is set against a solid black background.

Give to God what is God's

