

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Matthew 22:15-22

Introduction: If a person is born in this country, he/she is automatically a citizen. If a person immigrates to this country from another country, then he/she can become a "naturalized" citizen by fulfilling the necessary requirements among which is swearing allegiance to this country. Nobody is automatically a citizen of Heaven, for as becoming a citizen of our own country, there are some necessary requirements, however everyone is invited to become a citizen of heaven after fulfilling all the requirements.

The religious leaders were always trying to entrap Jesus, discredit Him, catch Him in a falsehood, anything that they could use to get Jesus out of the way. Our text is an example of one of their methods of trying to trick Jesus into making a mistake so they could get rid of Him.

I. PEOPLE HAVE FALSE CONCEPTS ABOUT CITIZENSHIP AND ALLEGIANCES

1. As with those trying to trick Jesus, many believe that "religion" is supreme in that:
 - no obligation is owed to any nation or government
 - Jehovah Witnesses, the dark ages, inquisition period of the Catholic Church reign.
 - all allegiance is owed to God and nobody or anything else.
2. There are those who believe that the "nation" is supreme over all other things:
 - Russia, China, etc.
 - everything and everyone is under the absolute authority of the national government.
 - God is not recognized as being the supreme being, but merely a religion of man.

II. FALSE CONCEPTS ABOUT CITIZENSHIP AND ALLEGIANCES LEAD TO SIN

1. False concepts lead to selfish ambitions:
 - The Pharisees and Herodians were enemies but united together against Jesus.
 - Hearts of government leaders are saturated, corrupts them by position, their influence, their power, their wealth and security.
2. False concepts lead to deception:
 - All that the Pharisees and Herodians said to Jesus was true, but they didn't believe a word of it.
 - Deception always destroys that which is truthful and strong.
 - Deception flatters and then seeks to destroy and ruin.
3. False concepts lead to close-mindedness, obstinate unbelief:
 - it rejects any truth, sees nothing but its own wants and goals.
 - any person placing all allegiance to his/her nation above his/her allegiance to God will compromise anything to keep what he/she has.
 - will also become bed-fellows with almost anyone to protect his/her security.
 - any person who places the nation ahead of God will turn away from Jesus, will feel threatened by Jesus, and will react against Jesus and His Church.

III. THE TRUE CONCEPT IS THAT THERE ARE TWO CITIZENSHIPS

1. People are accountable to their earthly citizenship, the one they were born into:
 - for what he/she receives from the world or his/her nation such as:
 - law, order, community services, protection, roads, water, utilities, food, etc.
 - everyone is obligated to his/her nation for whatever benefits he/she receives from his/her government.

2. People are accountable to God (especially the Christian) for his/her spiritual citizenship:
 - everyone has already received much from God:
 - a life that will exist forever (heaven or hell)
 - a mind and body to live on this earth and enjoy what God has made here.
 - a spirit which enables them to communicate with God.
 - much, much more.
 - therefore, all people are to love God - supremely,
 - they are to seek the Lord
 - they are to know that the Lord is God and He, alone, is to be worshiped.
 - they are not to forget God
 - they are not to profane God's covenant.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is no question but the people of this nation of America have forgotten their dual allegiance.
 - God is no longer first, no longer does God even share in the allegiance of the people of this land. God has become a NOBODY.
 - God's laws are being replaced by the laws of the Supreme Court of this land.
 - God's Name is being removed from all institutions of the land and its currency.
 - God's Day of worship has been replaced by everything but what the Day is supposed to be.
 - God's Church has become silent and ineffective.

2. Any nation whose God is the Lord shall be blessed

3. Any nation who forgets God will be cursed.

4. God's people of all people owe allegiance to God FIRST, then to their nation/country. IF God's people would do that, then this nation could be turned around from its course of leaving God and becoming a cursed land to a land once again recognized by the world as a nation whose God is the LORD.

5. *"...render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's..."*