

HOMILY BY DEACON GERARD ANTHONY, OCTOBER 31, 2020

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew (Matt. 22:15-22)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Returning to God Instead of Serving Caesar

Today is All Hallows Eve, the Eve of all the Saints and so we must look at the cost of sanctity and connect it to ourselves, the world, and all our Holy Hour Intentions.

The cost is summarized by these famous words of the Gospel:

Give to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God's.

The problem comes when we confuse these words and hand over things that belong to God to Caesar-the state or to the realm of politics. In this we imitate the Sanhedrin at the trial of Jesus who had to make a choice:

1. To crucify Barabbas or Jesus
2. To sacrifice Barabbas (who tradition has his first name was Joshua-so we would have Joshua Bar Abba or Jesus, the worldly Son of the Father) or Jesus, the Incarnate Son of the Father
3. To pay the highest tribute to the world and thus sacrifice Jesus or to pay the highest tribute to Jesus and in doing so sacrifice the world.

In other words, to serve the world and become its son, or to serve God and His Church and become a saint! It's all dependent on upon the coin we decide to put in the box.

So let's look at the coin again, let's look at those things which we have handed over to Caesar that belongs God and we need to proclaim so the world can once again see His image: These are love, truth, and freedom.

Love belongs to God because "God is love" (1Jn. 4:18), so why have we given this topic over to the state? What is marriage? It is a Sacrament which means it is "An outward sign that gives the grace it signifies instituted by who...Yes Christ...God!" God instituted marriage as a Lifelong Covenantal Sacrament between man and a woman who love one another for the purpose of unity and procreation. So why have we sat back and allowed the State to define marriage as something that is a dissoluble contract between two people (doesn't matter who those people are-man and man, woman and woman) who come together for as long as they feel, not to procreate or unite themselves together under God, but in the name of lust.

The goods of marriage is children, but instead of saying we should love and value the dignity of each child, we have handed this over to the state for them to allow innocent children to be killed as Mother Teresa of Calcutta would say, under the name of convenience. According to the American life League, there are 2362 Abortions per day, 98+ Abortions per hour, 1 abortion every 96 seconds here in America. And this doesn't even take into account the chemical abortions. This is an absolute travesty! But yet, if you talk about these offenses against love, you speak out against the desecration of the image and likeness of God you are being "Political" and stepping out of line! Love-marriage and the dignity of our children-belong to the realm of God, not Caesar!

And so, we must "Give to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God's."

Truth also belongs to God because Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6). So why do we let Caesar decide now what is truth through political correctness and education. Scripture tells us:

So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:27).

The terms “he and she” are now offensive terms because Caesar or the State has said that this makes people uncomfortable. It doesn’t matter if you are a boy or girl, what matters now is what you feel like. I decide what is true according to gender theory. I feel that you are racist therefore you, our nation, and all people of certain professions ARE racist according to the critical race theory. I decide if you are on the right side of history or not. I feel that your property belongs to everyone and that God has no place in the public square, in public life, and in life in general. So, the State should tell us how we should spend our money, when we can talk about God, and even when we can worship and receive the Sacraments all under the Marxist-Socialist Theory. All of these theories are being taught in our schools, as education, and are being proposed as guidepost for our nation. Gender theory contradicts the truth of God who makes us male and female. Critical Race Theory contradicts the truths of history, the dignity of man and woman and the 5th and 8th Commandments of not slandering and not making rash judgements (labeling something as true based upon feelings or thoughts rather than on truth). Marxism-Socialism has been condemned by the Church for over 140 years with Pope Pius XI calling it a Satanic Scourge.¹ Since it comes from Satan, Pius IX wrote the clergy have a responsibility to keep their flock from being deceived by it:

[T]he special goal of their proponents is to introduce to the people the pernicious fictions of Socialism and Communism by misapplying the terms “liberty” and “equality.” The final goal shared by these teachings, whether of Communism or Socialism... is to excite by continuous disturbances workers and others, especially those of the lower class, whom they have deceived by their lies and deluded by the promise of a happier condition. They are preparing them for plundering, stealing, and usurping first the Church’s and then everyone’s property. After this they will profane all law, human and divine, to destroy divine worship and to subvert the entire ordering of civil societies... ***it is your duty, venerable brothers, to help the faithful realize that if they let themselves be deceived by such perverted***

¹ Pius XI. *Divini Redemptoris: On Atheistic Communism*, sec. 7. March 19, 1937. Accessed at: https://w2.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19370319_divini-redemptoris.html

doctrines and theories, these theories will cause their temporal and their eternal destruction.²

Yet, Marxism-Socialism is being presented as truth as something to follow when the Church has specifically pointed it out a deception that comes from the Devil. Once again, if you talk about this, you are “out of bounds.” But God’s truth is worth talking about. As the founder of my alma Mater Christendom college Dr. Warren Carroll said, “Truth matters. The Incarnation happened!!” We should not be led by the light of the world, Lucifer, the Light-bearer, but by led by He who is Truth Jesus Christ, who is the true Light of the World (Jn. 9:5).

Again, this means, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar and to God what is God’s.”

Finally, Freedom also belongs to God. Scripture tells us, “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (Jn. 8:31-32). Caesar says, it is not being a disciple of Jesus that brings freedom, but being a disciple of the State that will set you free. In this, freedom is not focused on love, truth, and the cross as Jesus would have it (a freedom of Excellence), but upon lust, lies, and pleasure (a freedom of indifference). What’s important is not whether something leads you to becoming the best version of yourself, but simply from the fact that you can choose. You decide what’s good and evil!

Jesus says, “Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and come follow me.” (Lk. 9:23). But Caesar or the State says, the cross, throw it away. It’s all about being pain free. An early Christian writer wisely said, “*Suffering for the Christian should have a greater appeal to us than pleasure does for the pagan.*”³ Do you see that comparison?! Jesus says, “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete” (Jn. 15:11). Caesar or the state says, don’t focus on what good in life being thankful, but only on what is going wrong, how people have failed. You must be critical. Again, this is Critical Theory but also something one of my old friends called Dialoguing with the Devil. We shouldn’t do this but be thankful and in this we live a Eucharistic (the Greek Word for Thanksgiving) life instead of

² Pius IX. *Nostis Et Nobiscum: On the Church in the Pontifical States*, sec. 18. Dec. 8, 1849. Accessed at: <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius09/p9nostis.htm>.

³ Timothy O’Donnell. Gospel of St. John CD 5, Track 4. *Institute of Catholic Culture*.

dialoguing with the Devil. And this Dialogue leads to what Sigmund Freud called the "Pleasure Principle." We, however, must like Jesus, choose to love by choosing to sacrifice for God, country, and others. You see Freud's Pleasure Principle says, "This is your body, given up for me", but Jesus' Holy Communion Principle says, "This is my body given up for you."

Conclusion

In conclusion, we must give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God. But this means reclaiming the Kingdom of God from Caesar, the State or the Kingdom of the World which St. Paul tells us, "In their case the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2Cor. 4:4). This is what is at stake, paying tribute to Caesar or paying tribute to God. Celebrating the Image of God through love, truth, and freedom or allowing it to be defiled and desecrated by upholding redefinitions of marriage, promoting abortion, letting our country be educated and guided by gender-theory, critical race-theory, and Marxism-Socialism, and choosing the false freedoms of dialoguing with the Devil rather than being uplifted by God's Word.

Which side of the coin will you put in the box? Will you choose to live as a son/daughter of the World or a son/daughter of God?

Pray for us O holy Mother of God and all you Holy Saints, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.