

# SERMON NOTES

## "The Christian and his Country"

### Matthew 22

(Matthew 22:15-22)

- Our text today has the Pharisees and the Herodians trying to catch Jesus in a trap. His answer to their question was classic and helps us understand the mystery of the relationship between church and state.
- The issue - church and state - is very much in the news these days.
- Our forefathers were well versed in the Bible so the first amendment to the Constitution begins with

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ."*

- The first amendment was never meant to separate God from government. Even when they declared their independence, they said

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights . . ."*

- Now Jesus said we are to give certain things to our government. Let me suggest a few:

I. \_\_\_\_\_ for our government (Romans 13:6-7)

- Jesus, as a private citizen, paid taxes (Matthew 17:24, 25)

II. \_\_\_\_\_ for our government (II Timothy 2:1-2)

(Proverbs 21:1)

III. \_\_\_\_\_ our government (Romans 13:7)

- The Psalmist spoke of his native land in Psalm 137:5

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ to our government

(Proverbs 24:11-12)

*"When the Nazis came for communists, I did not speak up for I was not a communist.*

*When the Nazis came for the Jews, I did not speak up for I was not a Jew.*

*When the Nazis came for the trade unionists, I did not speak up for I was not a trade unionist.*

*When the Nazis came for the Catholics, I did not speak up for I was not a Catholic.*

*Then they came for me, but by that time there was nobody left to speak up for anybody!"*

Martin Niemöller (a Lutheran pastor who spent 7 years in a Nazi prison)

V. \_\_\_\_\_ for our government (I Peter 2:13-15)

VI. \_\_\_\_\_ in our government (Romans 13:7)

- Ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people . . .  
You are the people!!